9
Saki
RITZ
KOBAYASHI

Saki

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9

Saki

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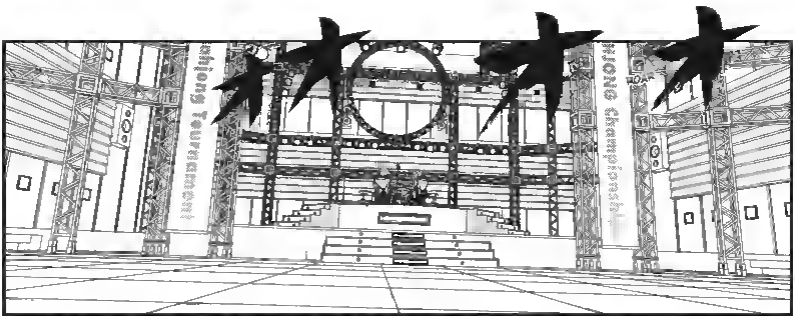

Regions Tournament
NIONG Championship

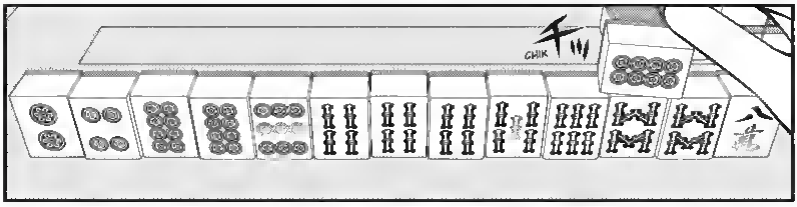
...
I HATE COMPLICATIONS LIKE THIS...
THIRD-YEAR, MIYAMORI GIRLS' (IWATE)
SHIROMI KOSEGAWA

SHE WAS ASLEEP...? IS THAT A JOKE...?
SECOND-YEAR, HIMEMATSU HIGH SCHOOL (SOUTH OSAKA)
SUZU UESHIGE

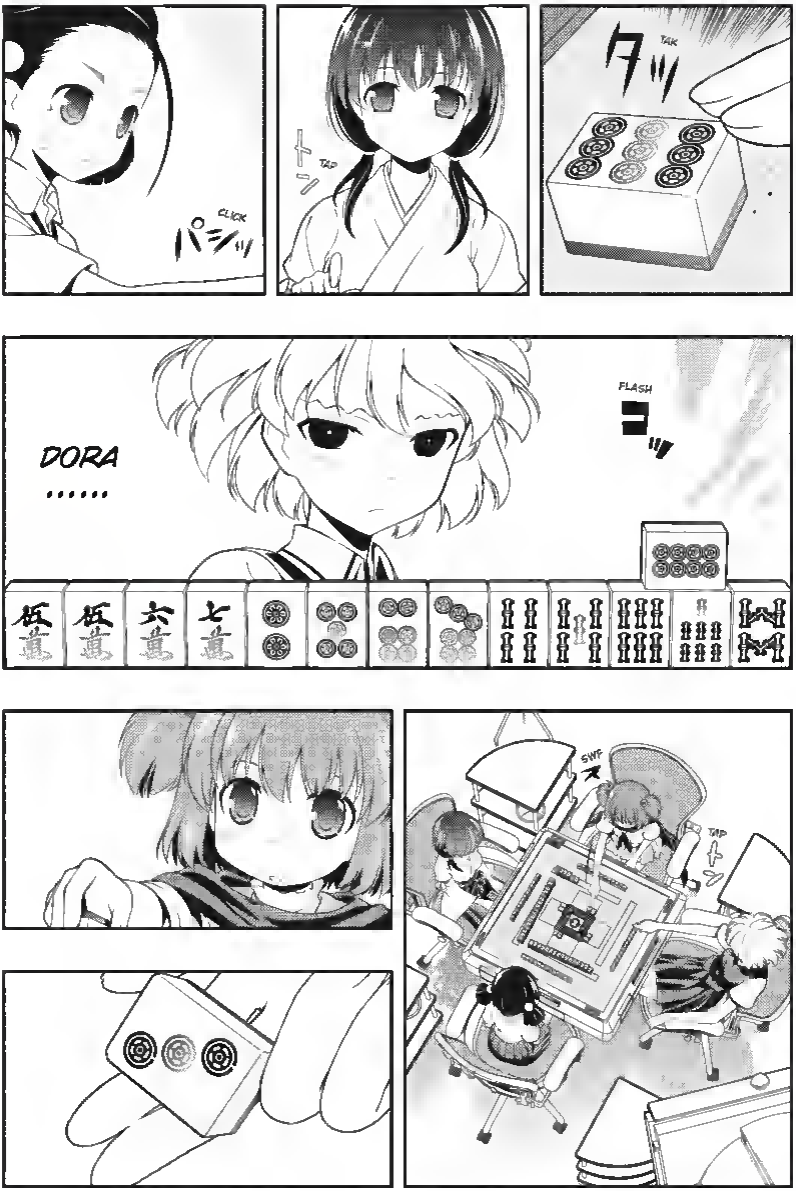
FOR A SECOND THERE, I GOT THE SAME FEELING I GET FROM SAKI-CHAN...
FIRST-YEAR, KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL (NAGANO)
YUUKI KATAOKA

HAND 72: ROOM TO RELAX

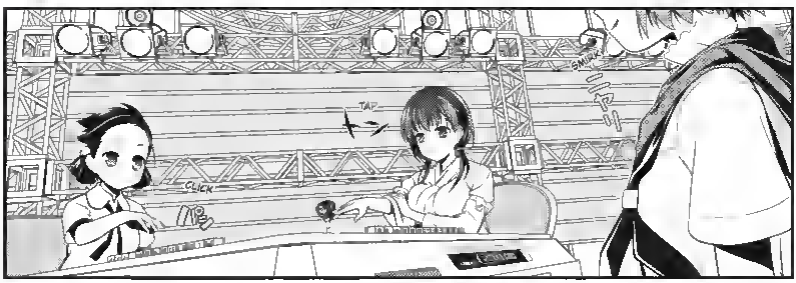
.....
THIS SHRINE MAIDEN IS A LITTLE SCARY.
BUT.....

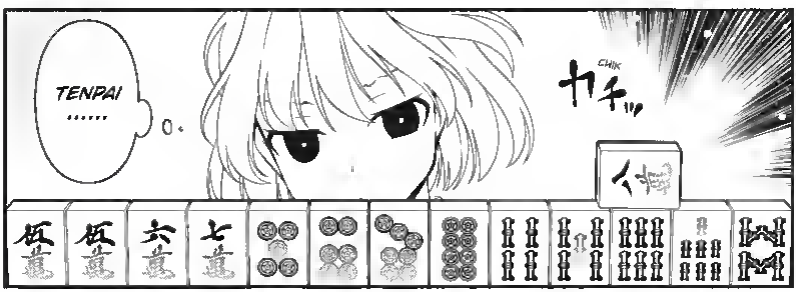


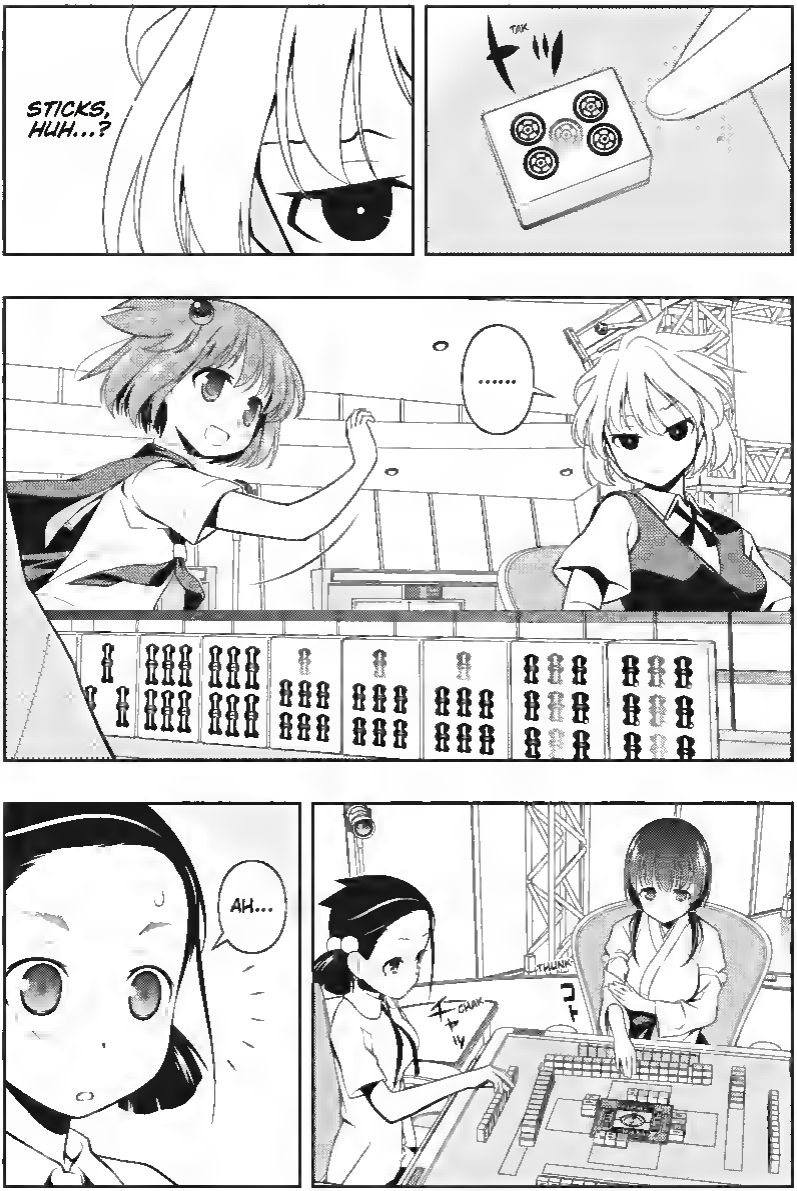
...I'VE GOT A CLOSED DORA TRIPLET AND I'M ONE AWAY FROM TENPAI.
I CAN STILL PUT ON THE PRESSURE!!


CLICK
TAP
TAK
DORA
FLASH
SWF
TAP

THIS HAND IS MINE TOO ...!!
IT'S THE THIRD TURN, AND I'M IN TENPAI FOR A 12,000 DEALER MANGAN...

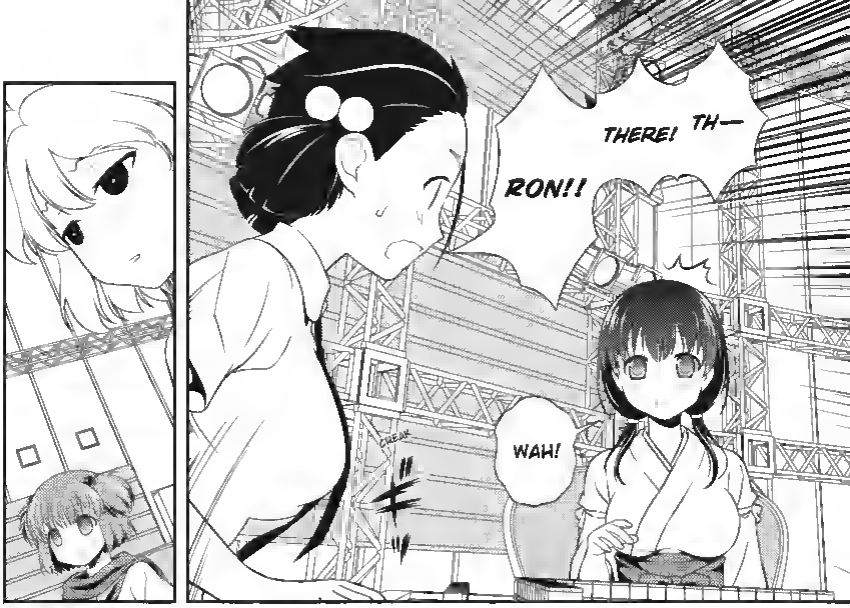

TAP
トン
CLICK
SHUFFLE


TENPAI .....
CHIK
カチッ

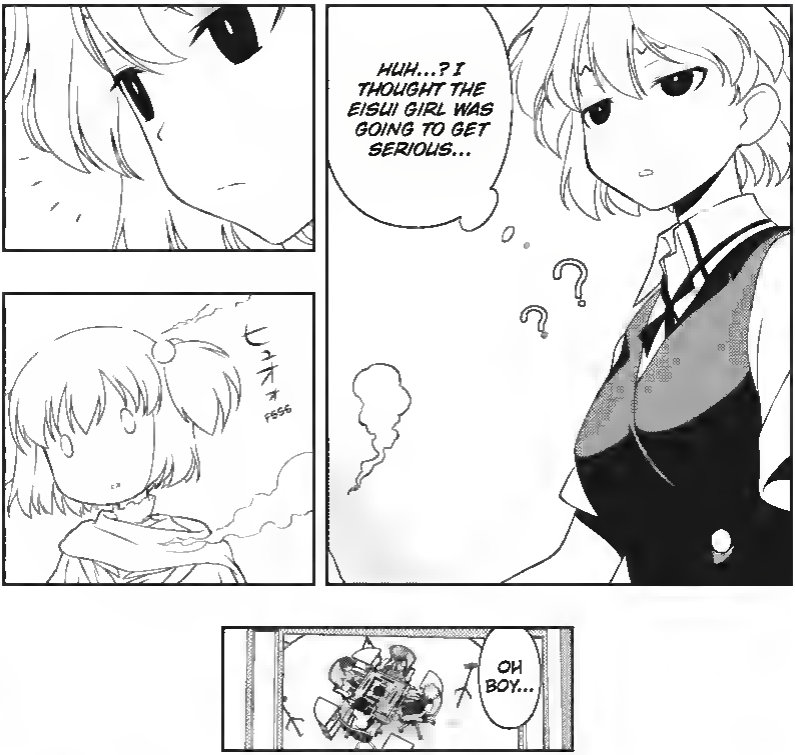

STICKS, HUH...?
TAK
.....
AH...
CHAK
THUNK

RIICH!
...!!
I GOT A HEAD START AGAINST THEM... I CAN DO THIS...!!
CLACK
EH ...?
IN A TIGHT JAM LIKE THIS ...?
TAK

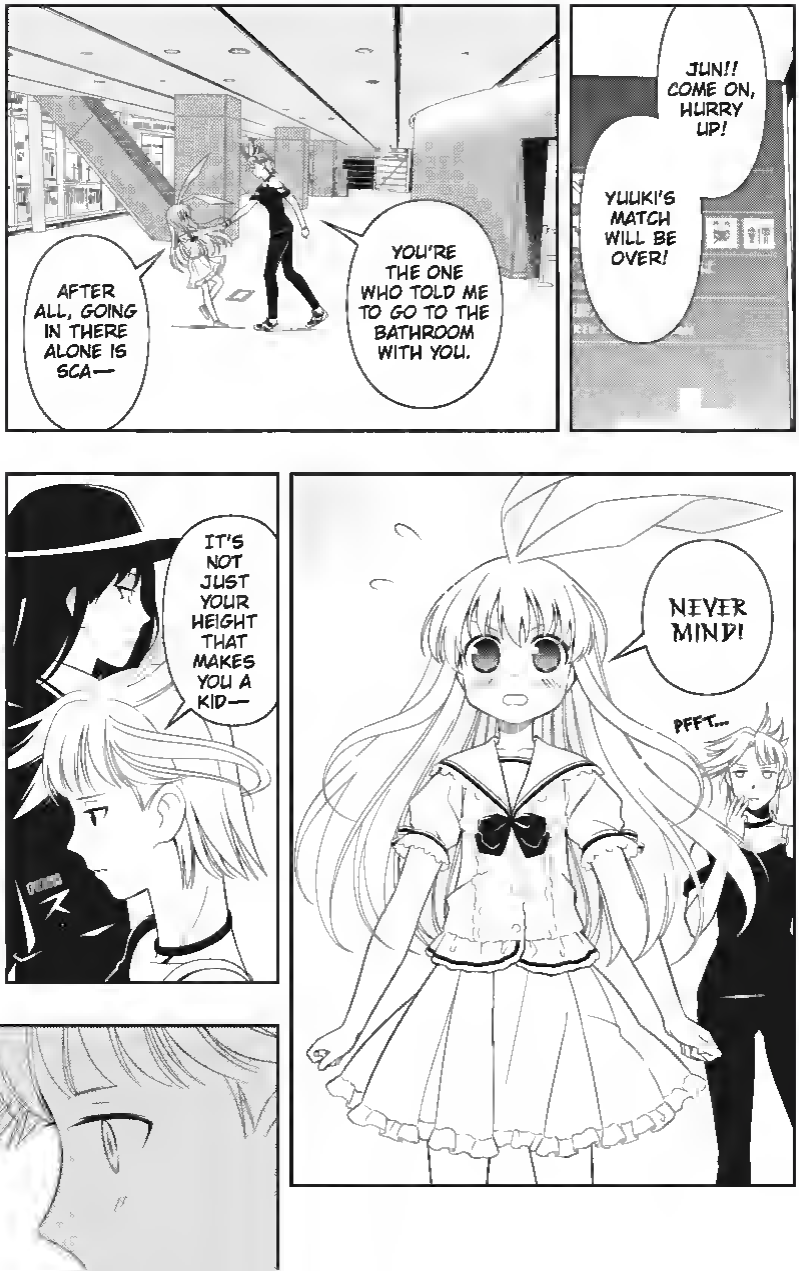
...WAIT, DON'T TELL ME THAT BOTH OF THEM...
IS SHE ALSO DISCARDING THE TILE SHE JUST DREW...?
SLAM
...ARE ALREADY IN TENPAI—!?
オオーオオ
ROAR
!?
コト
THUNK
YIKES... THEN I MIGHT FEED THEM A TILE AGAIN BY ACCIDENT...
CLENCH


THERE!
TH—
RON!!
WAH!

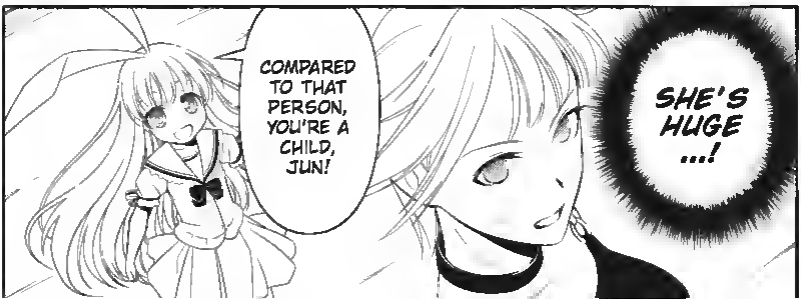
RIICHI, PINFU, IPPATSU! WITH TWO URADORA AND THREE BONUS COUNTERS, THAT'S 8,900!
R-RIGHT!
FLUSH


HUH...? I THOUGHT THE EISUI GIRL WAS GOING TO GET SERIOUS...
ヒュオォ
FSSS
OH BOY...
WHEN KOMAKI-CHAN IS AWAKE, SHE'S JUST AN AVERAGE PLAYER WHO TRIES HARD.
IT SEEMS THE PRINCESS IS FULLY AWAKE.
THAT WAS FAST THIS TIME...
CHUCKLE
MUNCH
MUNCH

EVEN IF WE TRAIL BY 60,000 POINTS, I'LL HANDLE IT ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SHE'S GOING TO FALL ASLEEP AGAIN THIS TIME, SO WE SHOULD PREPARE FOR A 30,000-POINT DEFICIT.
ANYTHING IS OKAY, AS LONG AS SHE DOESN'T GET KNOCKED OUT...
MUNCH MUNCH
IF IT TURNS OUT TO BE A 90,000-POINT DEFICIT, I SAY SHE DOESN'T GET ANY SNACKS TODAY.
LET'S ALL JUST SIT BACK AND SEE HOW SHE DOES.
THAT'S TRUE.
MUNCH MUNCH


AFTER ALL, GOING IN THERE ALONE IS SCA—
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD ME TO GO TO THE BATHROOM WITH YOU.
JUN!! COME ON, HURRY UP!
YUUKI'S MATCH WILL BE OVER!
IT'S NOT JUST YOUR HEIGHT THAT MAKES YOU A KID—
NEVER MIND!
PFFT...

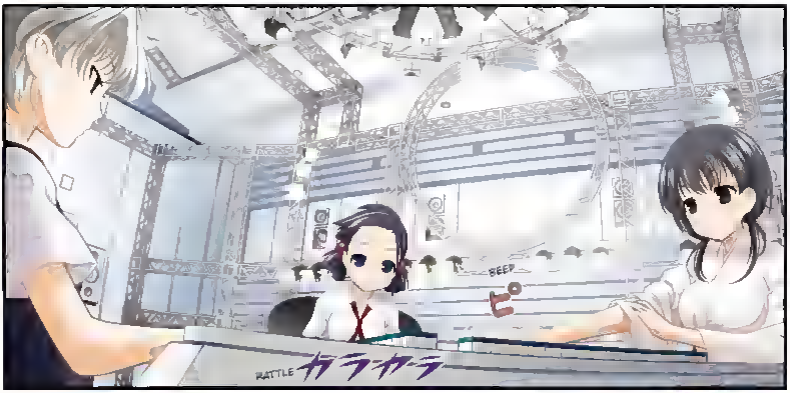
!?


COMPARED TO THAT PERSON, YOU'RE A CHILD, JUN!
SHE'S HUGE ...!

WHO IS SHE...?
ALTHOUGH, I'VE NEVER SEEN A TEEN WHO WAS SHORTER THAN YOU...
WOMEN TALLER THAN ME ARE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN...
YEAH, RIGHT.
HMPH.
NEVER MIND THE ENEMY. PAY ATTENTION TO SHIRO, YOUR TEAMMATE.
HOW IS JINDAI-SAN DOING?
I'M BAAACK.
SPIN
WELCOME BACK!
控室 A302
Dressing Room
Miyamori Girls' High School

THEN WHY DON'T YOU GET HER AUTOGRAPH?
THIRD-YEAR, MIYAMORI GIRLS' KURUMI KAKURA
BUT, Y'KNOW, JINDAI-SAN IS AMAZING.
LAST YEAR, SHE SHUT OUT RISE FUJIWARA FROM KYUSHU'S SEKIZAN HIGH SCHOOL.
THIRD-YEAR, MIYAMORI GIRLS' TOYONE ANETAI
YES, I WILL.
THIRD-YEAR, MIYAMORI GIRLS' SAE USUZAWA
THIRD-YEAR, MIYAMORI GIRLS' AISLINN WISHART
AFTER WE BEAT EISUI AND TAKE FIRST PLACE.

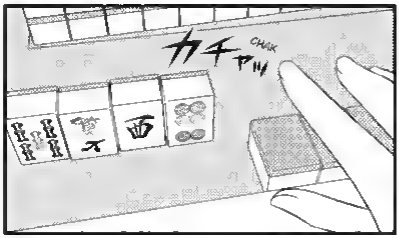
HAND 73: FOREBODING

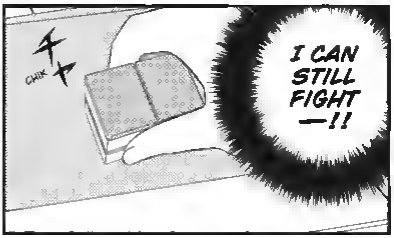

RATTLE
カラカラ
BEEP
ピ

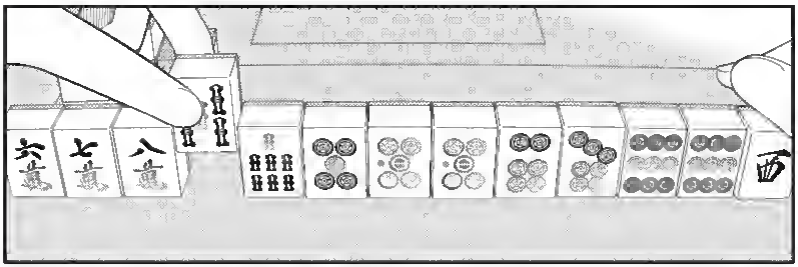
I LOST MY PRECIOUS TURN AS DEALER...
MY TURN AS DEALER...

BUT—

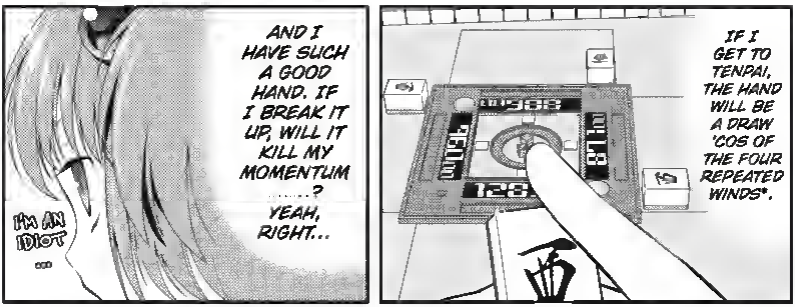
WE'RE STILL IN THE EAST ROUND!!



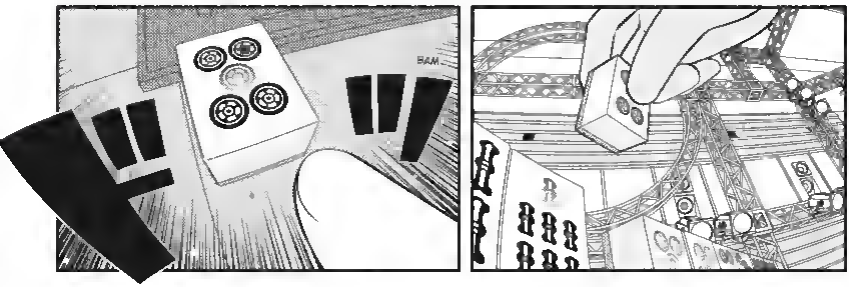

I CAN STILL FIGHT —!!

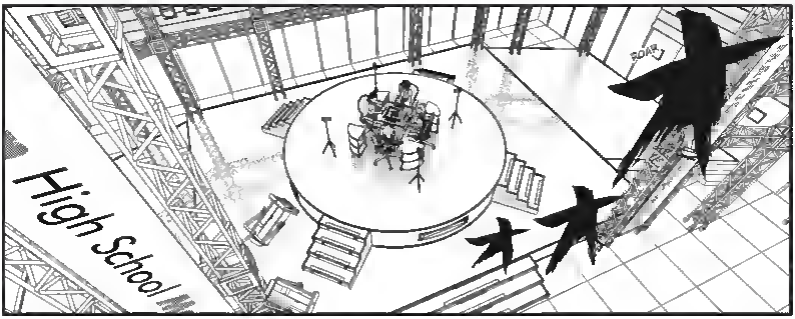


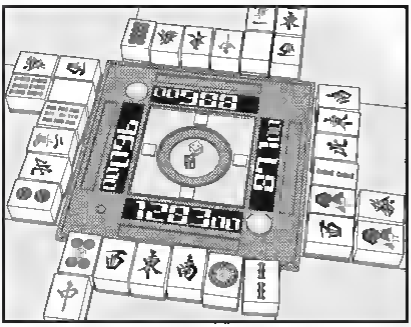
TAP
SWISH
RIGHT OFF THE BAT, I'M ONE TILE AWAY FROM TENPAI!
YES!
WHUMP
DON'T TELL ME...
ULP...
TAK
87m
THERE IT IS...

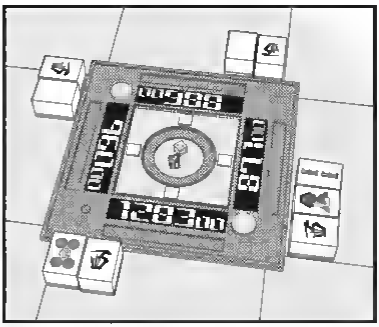

AND I HAVE SUCH A GOOD HAND. IF I BREAK IT UP, WILL IT KILL MY MOMENTUM.....?
YEAH, RIGHT...
I'M AN IDIOT...
IF I GET TO TENPAI, THE HAND WILL BE A DRAW 'COS OF THE FOUR REPEATED WINDS*.

*FOUR REPEATED WINDS: DURING THE FIRST DISCARD, IF ALL DISCARDED TILES ARE THE SAME WIND TILE, THE HAND BECOMES A DRAW

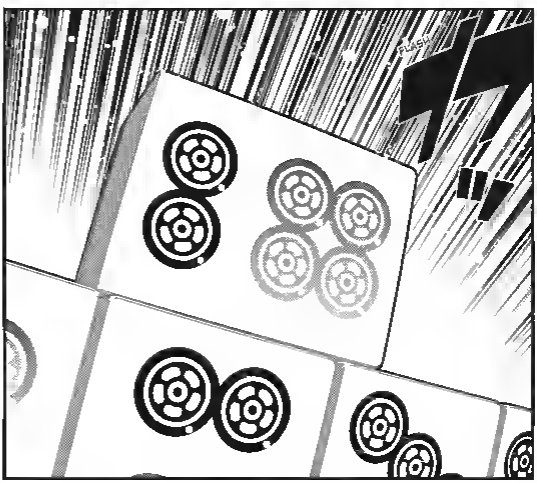



High School
ROAR





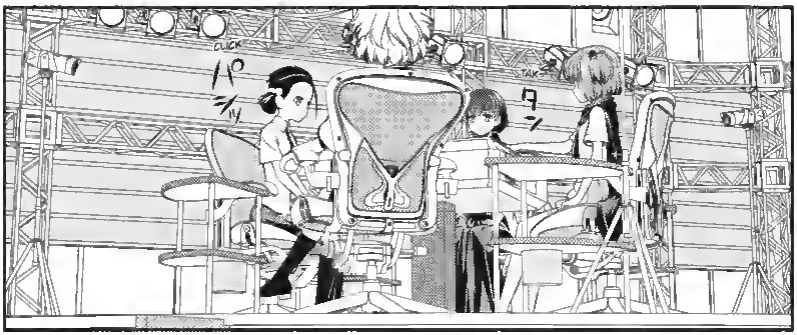
SWISH
RIGHT BACK ON TRACK ...!!

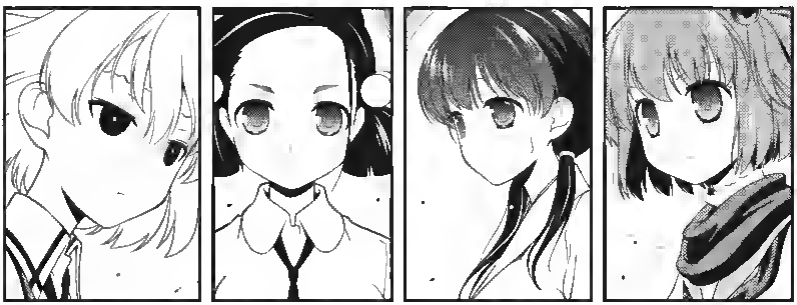

PUSH

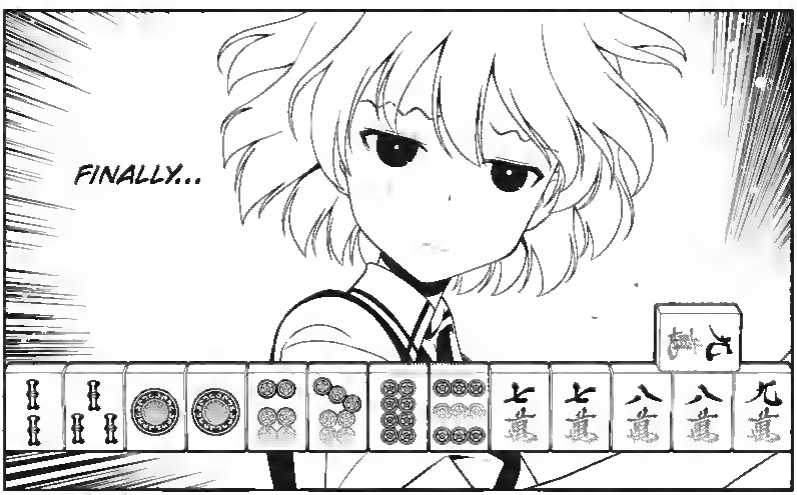
WHACK
RIICHI!
I CAN'T JUST SIT HERE QUIETLY!

TAK
TAP
THAT RIICHI FEELS OFF...
CLACK
MMM...

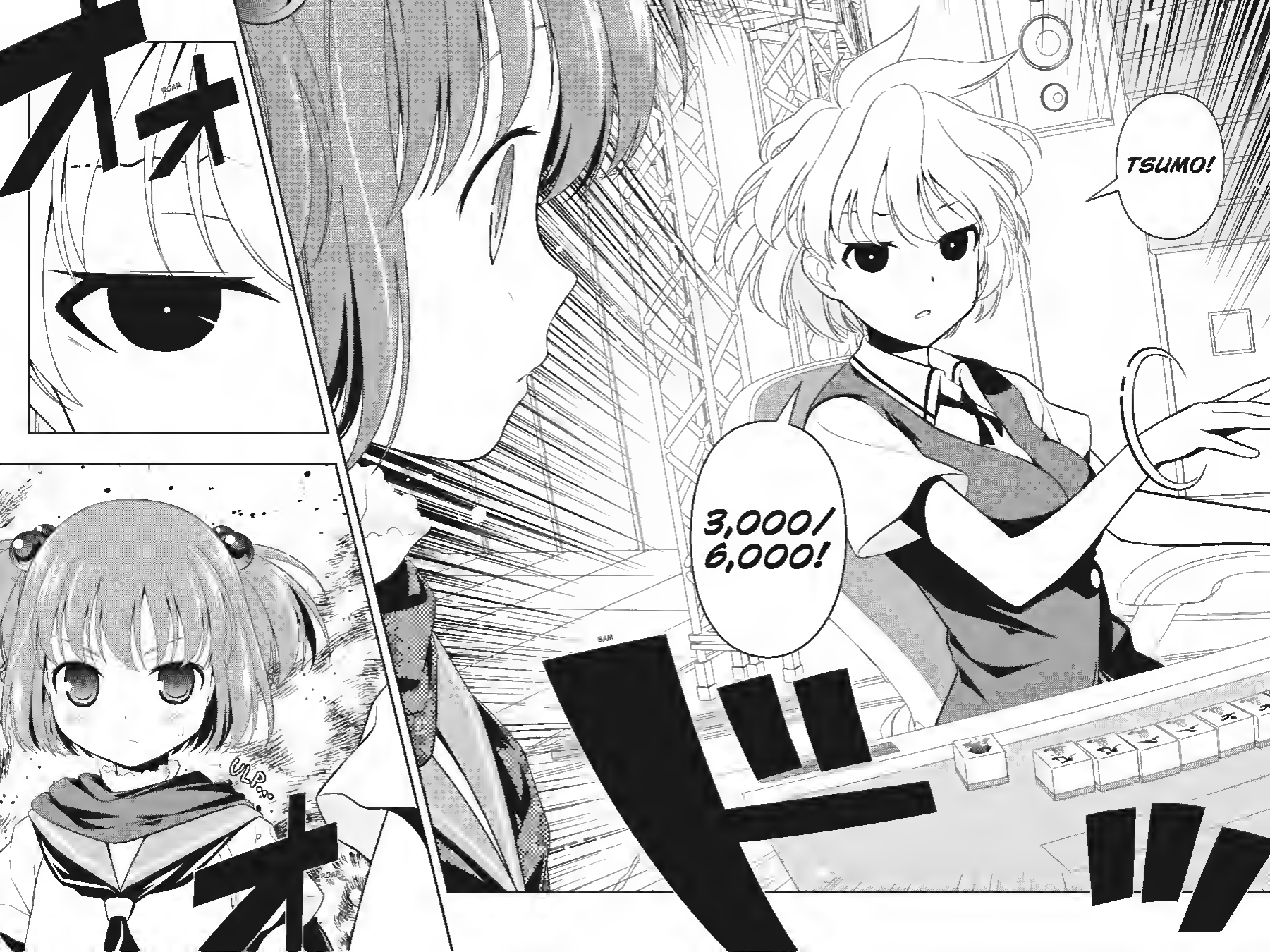
WE'LL SEE...
SHE SHOULD'VE STAYED QUIET. SINCE SHE DECLARED RIICHI, EVERYONE CAN FOLD.
TAK
IPPA-TSU... OR NOT!
PHEW...
SUZU-CHAN...BE CAREFUL...
TAP
CHIK


CLICK
パシ
TAK
タン

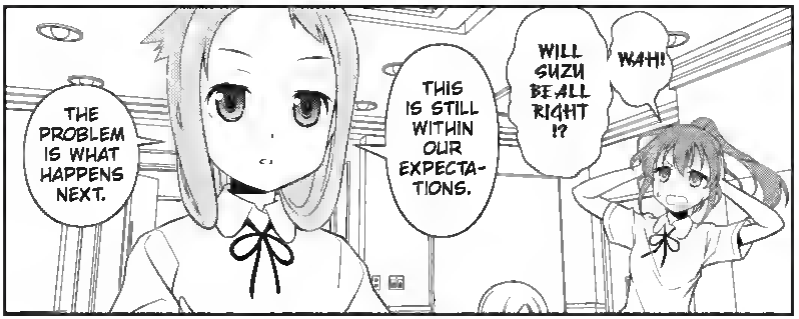


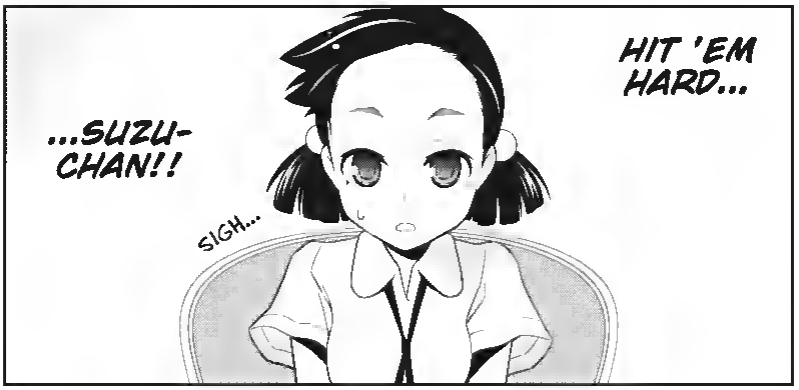

FINALLY...
七萬
七萬
八萬
八萬
九萬

SHE DISCARDED A STRONG TILE...
TAP
...A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
I HAVE...
YOU WERE IN A DEEP PLACE...
FINISH
TAK

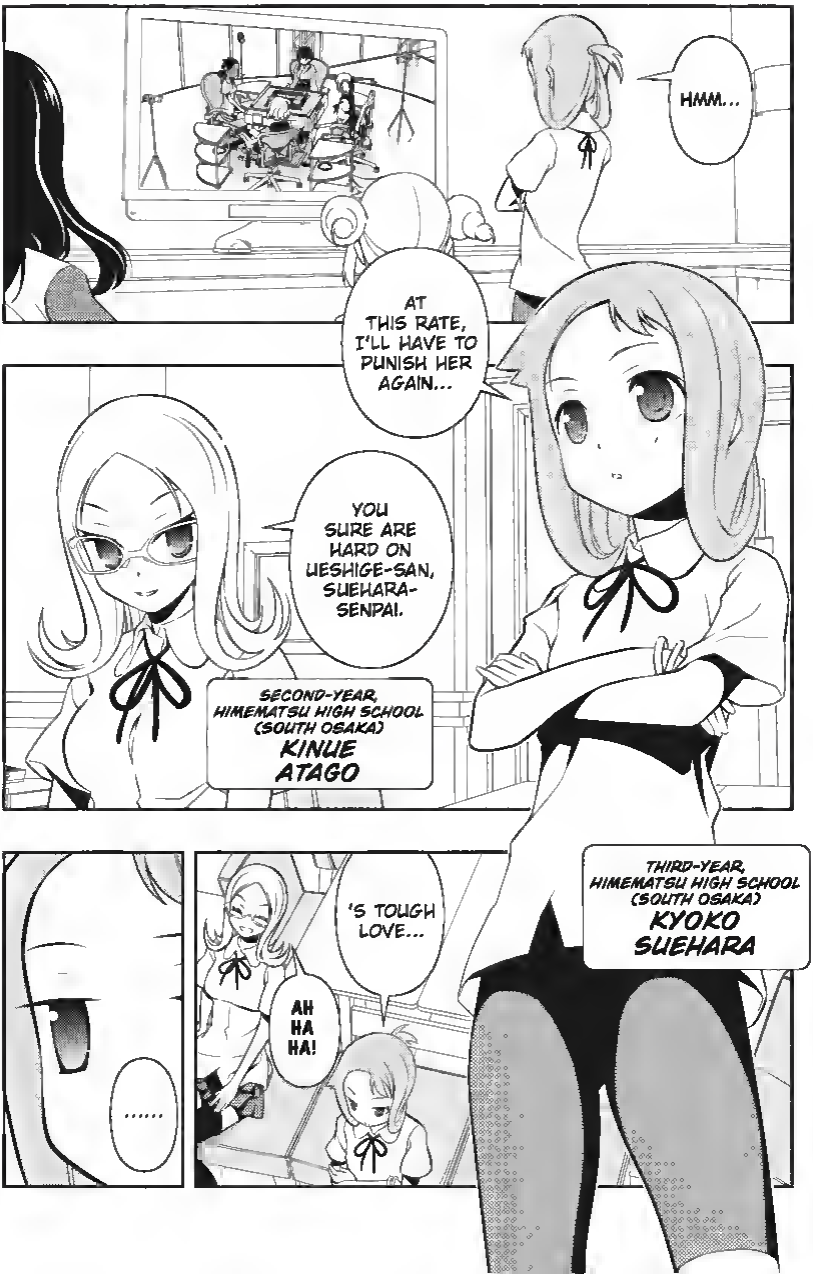

ROAR
ROAR
TSUMO!
3,000/
6,000!
BAM
ULP...

LOOKS LIKE SHE FINALLY GOT A SHIRO-ESQUE WIN.
I THINK WE'LL GET BY IN THE SECOND ROUND MATCH TOO.
YEP.


WAH!
WILL SUZU BE ALL RIGHT!?
THIS IS STILL WITHIN OUR EXPECTA-TIONS.
THE PROBLEM IS WHAT HAPPENS NEXT.


HIT 'EM HARD...
...SUZU-CHAN!!
SIGH...

HAND 74: GODS AND DEMONS

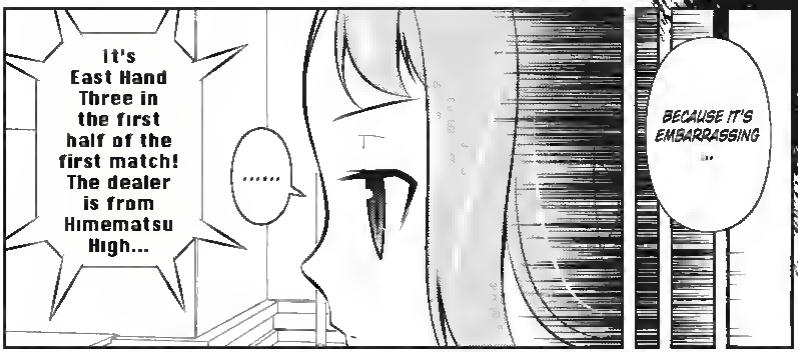

HMM...
AT THIS RATE, I'LL HAVE TO PUNISH HER AGAIN...
YOU SURE ARE HARD ON UESHIGE-SAN, SUEHARA-SENPAI.
SECOND-YEAR, HIMEMATSU HIGH SCHOOL (SOUTH OSAKA)
KINUE ATAGO
THIRD-YEAR, HIMEMATSU HIGH SCHOOL (SOUTH OSAKA)
KYOKO SUEHARA
'S TOUGH LOVE...
AH HA HA!
.....

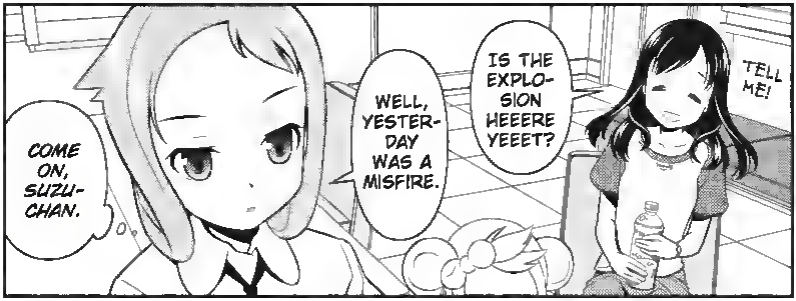
FIFTEEN MONTHS AGO
ゴォォォォ
WOOO
HIME-MATSU HIGH SCHOOL, OSAKA
リーンゴーン
DING-DONG
CHATTER
ガヤ
CHATTER
ガヤ

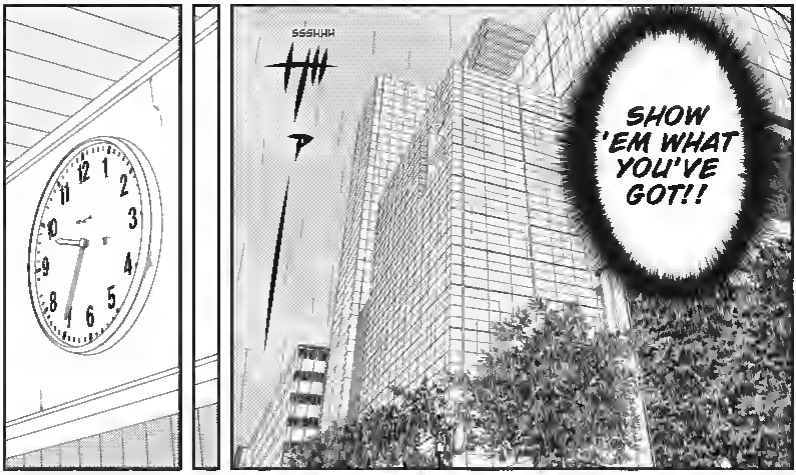
CAN I HAVE A WORD WITH YA?
OKAY.
CHOW!
SUEHARA-CHAAAN!
WOBBLE
AWWW, C'MON! STOP CALLING ME THAAAT...
WHAT IS IT, FILL-IN...?
COACH ZENNO IS STILL IN THE HOSPITAL...
...SO DON'T YOU THINK THIS IS A LITTLE SHAMELESS?
THINGS AS THEY ARE, I'M STIIILL TRYIN' TO DO MY BEST AS YOUR COACH...
FILL-IN COACH HIMEMATSU HIGH MAHJONG CLUB
IKUNO AKASAKA

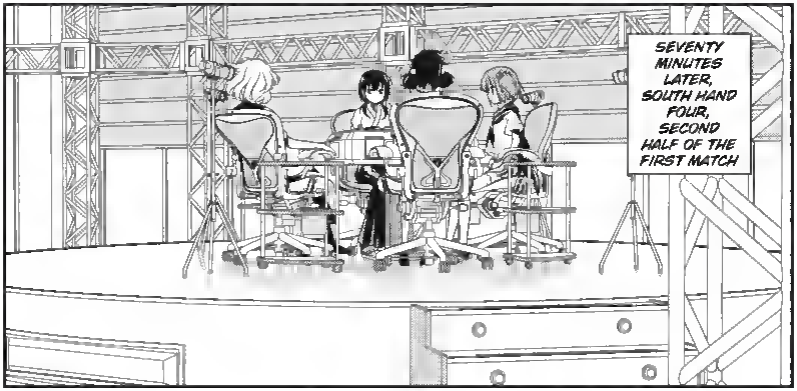
I QUIT.
I'M THINKIN' ABOUT MAKING YOU A REGULAR FOR TEAM COMPETITIONS.
SORRY! I'LL GET RIIIGHT DOWN TO IT...
.....
FROM THE SECOND-YEARS, YOU AND ATAGO-SAN'S BIIIG SISTER. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
FROM THE THIRD-YEARS, NAKAGISHI-SAN, MINO-SAN AND UMEGAKI-SAN.
WHO WOULD THE OTHER MEMBERS BE?
HUH?
WHAT ...!?
THAT GIRL'S REALLY WEAK.
UNDER OUR STANDARD RULES, YES.
UESHIGE .....?
WHY NOT FIRST-YEAR'S UESHIGE INSTEAD OF ME?
THE NEW MEMBER EVERYBODY MAKES FUN OF...?

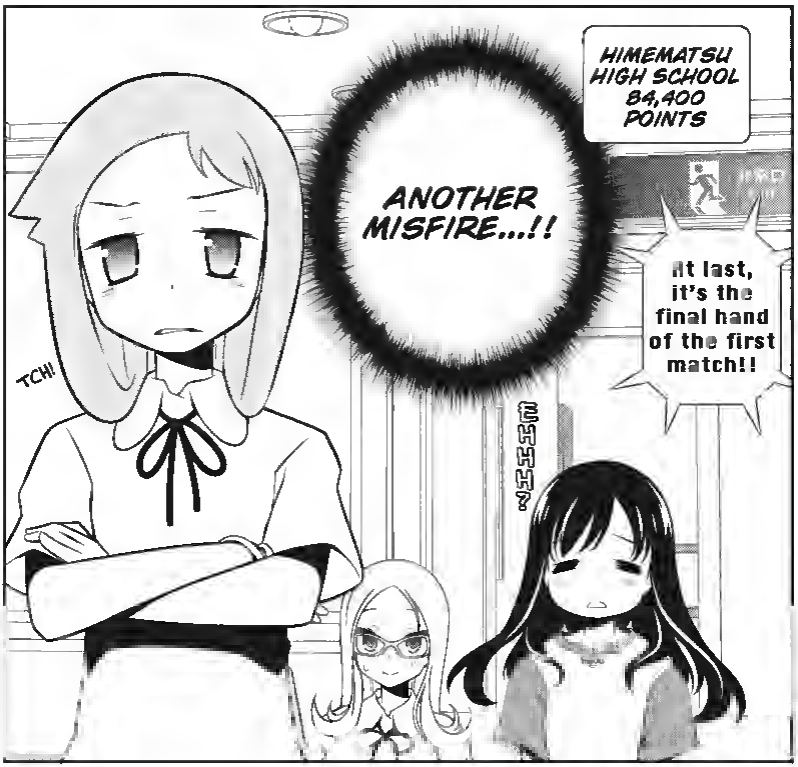
BUT IF YOU DISREGARD THE BONUS POINTS AND RANK POINTS AND SIMPLY GO BY TOTAL POINTS EARNED, SHE'S GOT A NET GAIN.
IN FACT, SHE HAD THE TOP SCORE IN THE CLUB LAST MONTH.
EVEN THOUGH SHE'S ALWAYS IN LAST PLACE? THAT'S STRAAANGE...
WHEN SHE WINS, IT'S LIKE AN EXPLOSION.
AN EX-PLOSION, HUH?
THE STONGER HER OPPONENTS ARE, THE HIGHER SHE SCORES. LIKE 60,000 POINTS OR SO.
THEN MAYBE I'LL PUT HER IN THE NEXT A-RANK VS B-RANK MATCHES AND SEE HOW SHE DOES.
I THINK SHE'D BE GOOD ANYWHERE BUT THE LAST MATCH.
AH...BUT PLEASE DON'T TELL ANYONE I RECOMMENDED UESHIGE.
EHHH? WHY NOOOT?

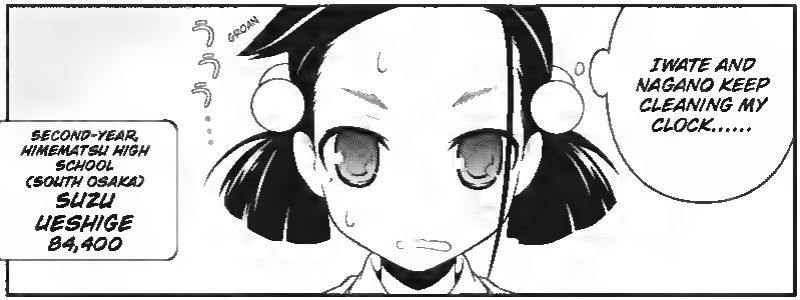

It's East Hand Three in the first half of the first match! The dealer is from Himematsu High...
.....
BECAUSE IT'S EMBARRASSING
...


COME ON, SUZU-CHAN.
WELL, YESTER-DAY WAS A MISFIRE.
IS THE EXPLO-SION HEEERE YEEET?
TELL ME!


MMMSSS
P
SHOW 'EM WHAT YOU'VE GOT!!

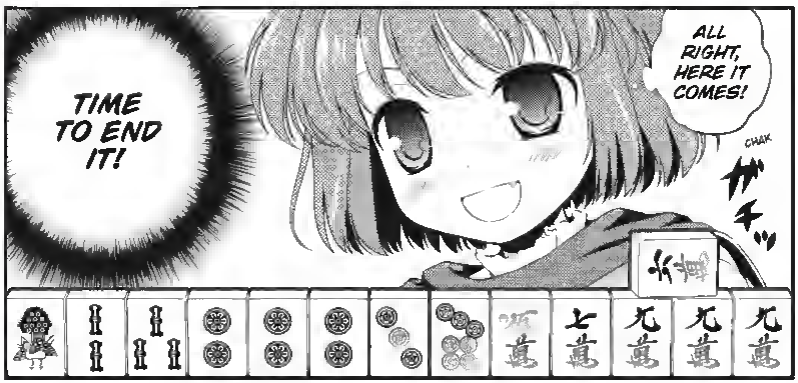

SEVENTY MINUTES LATER, SOUTH HAND FOUR, SECOND HALF OF THE FIRST MATCH


HIMEMATSU HIGH SCHOOL 84,400 POINTS
ANOTHER MISFIRE...!!
At last, it's the final hand of the first match!!
TCH!
MUSUSU...


GROAN
うう…
IWATE AND NAGANO KEEP CLEANING MY CLOCK.....
SECOND-YEAR, HIMEMATSU HIGH SCHOOL (SOUTH OSAKA)
SUZU UESHIGE
84,400

FIRST-YEAR, KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL (NAGANO)
YUUKI KATAOKA
124,900
I'VE BEEN ABLE KEEP MY LEAD UP TO THE LAST HAND OF THIS SECOND HANCHAN AGAIN...IT'S ALL THANKS TO OUR INTENSIVE TRAINING...!!

.....
THIRD-YEAR, MIYAMORI GIRLS' (IWATE)
SHIROMI KOSEGAWA
115,000

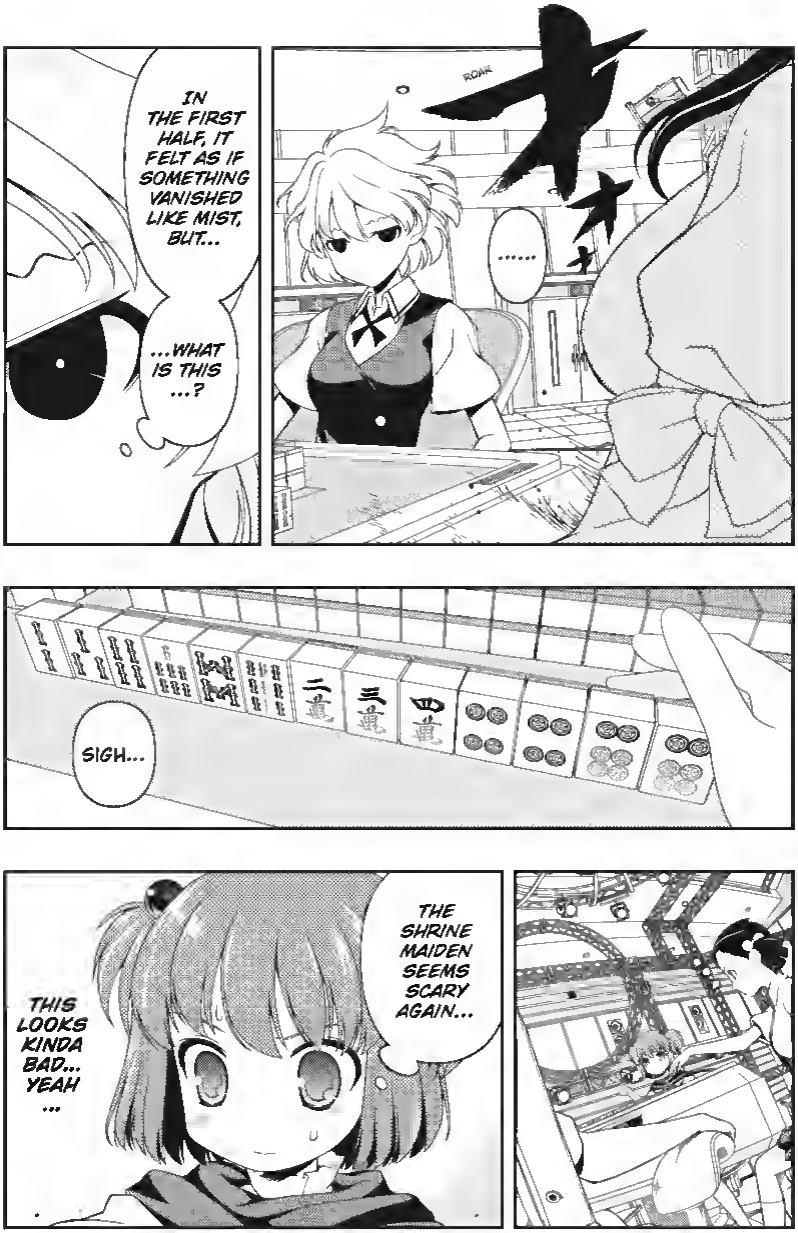

TIME TO END IT!
ALL RIGHT, HERE IT COMES!
CHAK
ガチッ

RICH!!
ウト
NOD
SECOND-YEAR, EISUI GIRLS' (KAGOSHIMA)
KOMAKI JINDAI
75,700
ROAR

AH...
SHE FELL ASLEEP ...
OH DEAR.

SHUDDER

HUH...
SIP


IN THE FIRST HALF, IT FELT AS IF SOMETHING VANISHED LIKE MIST, BUT...
...WHAT IS THIS ...?
ROAR
.....
SIGH...
THE SHRINE MAIDEN SEEMS SCARY AGAIN...
THIS LOOKS KINDA BAD... YEAH ...

YES, THE SHRINE MAIDEN BECAME A DEMON.
WE ALREADY KNEW, BUT SHE REALLY IS SCARY...
LEADER AND ADVISER, MIYAMORI GIRLS' (IWATE) TOSHI KUMAKURA
DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS OF KAGOSHIMA ...
...THERE IS AN ENCHANTED LAND WHERE ONLY NYMPHS LIVE...OR SO THE FAIRY TALE GOES, BUT...
...I COULD BELIEVE THAT SHE'S ONE OF THEM, DESCENDED FROM THE MOUNTAINS.
RON.
ULP.
AH...
!

THE PRINCESS OF THE DIVINE LAND OF KIRISHIMA...
COMPANION TO THE SIX NYMPHS—

HAND 75: RECAPTURE

The first match is over—!!
In the last hand, Eisui Girls' scored a direct hit with a sanbaiman on the leader, Kiyosumi High School! This takes them up to second place!
SECOND-YEAR, EISUI GIRLS' (KAGOSHIMA) FIRST MATCH PLAYER
KOMAKI JINDAI
100,700
The current leader is Miyamori Girls', representing Iwate Prefecture!
THIRD-YEAR, MIYAMORI GIRLS' (IWATE) FIRST MATCH PLAYER
SHIROMI KOSEGAWA
115,000

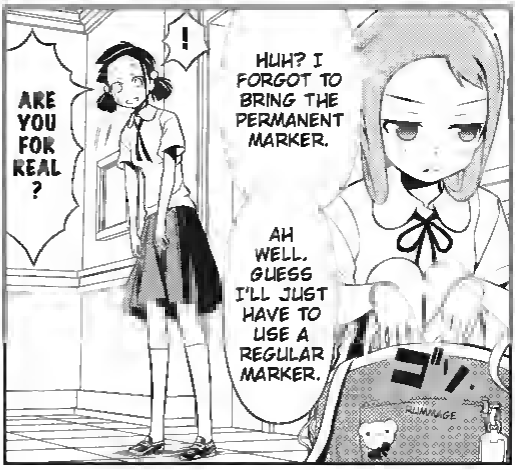
The battle for top eight continues into the second match!
UGHH...
I'M BACK...
WELCOME BACK!
GOOD GAME
FIRST-YEAR, KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL (NAGANO) FIRST MATCH PLAYER
YUUKI KATAOKA
99,900
I SHOULDN'T HAVE DECLARED THAT RIICHI, NOT WHEN I WAS IN THE LEAD...
THEY MADE-A-COME-BACK WITH THE RIICHI STICK...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU PUT UP A GREAT FIGHT!
SQUEEZE

LEAVE THE REST TO US.
A FIRST-YEAR FACED OFF AGAINST OPPONENTS FROM POWER-HOUSE SCHOOLS IN THE FIRST MATCH AND CAME BACK WITH THE OPENING POINTS, MORE OR LESS. THAT'S PLENTY.
SNEAK
W-WAAH!
AGH!
WHAT'RE YOU SNEAKING AROUND FOR?
TWITCH
ピク

SECOND-YEAR, HIMEMATSU HIGH SCHOOL (SOUTH OSAKA) FIRST MATCH PLAYER
SUZU UESHIGE
84,400
I'M SO SORRY!!

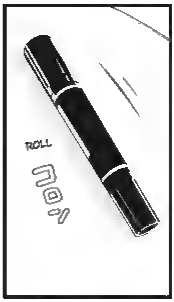
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
LOOK, IT'S OKAY. THESE THINGS HAPPEN.

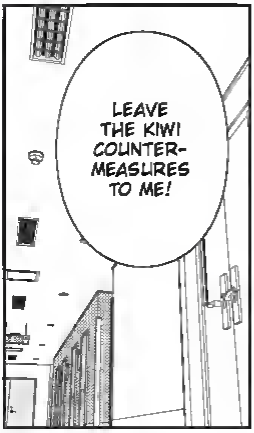
OHHH, SUEHARA-CHAN, YOU NEED A PERMANENT MARKERRR?
EH?


!
ARE YOU FOR REAL ?
HUH? I FORGOT TO BRING THE PERMANENT MARKER.
AH WELL. GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO USE A REGULAR MARKER.
ゴソ
RUMMAGE

SAY WHAT !?
I BELIEEEVE I BROUGHT ONE ALOOONG...

GOOD LUCK.
AAGH
FWISH
WELL, I'M UP.


ROLL
ROLL


LEAVE THE KIWI COUNTER-MEASURES TO ME!

SECOND-YEAR, HIMEMATSU HIGH SCHOOL (SOUTH OSAKA) SECOND MATCH PLAYER
YUKO MASE
YUKO...
I'M PLAYIN' AGAINST IWATE'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT. I KNOW.

THIRD-YEAR, MIYAMORI GIRLS' SECOND MATCH PLAYER
AISLINN WISHART
HUH...? YOU'RE IGNORING HER?
NO, I JUST DON'T KNOW ANY FOREIGN LANGUAGES ...
THEY SPEAK ENGLISH IN NEW ZEALAND.
WELL, I'M BAD AT ENGLISH!

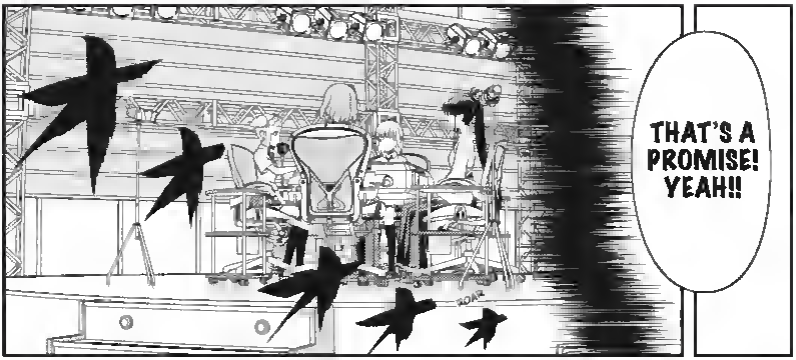
.....
ポン
PAT
SHIRO!
AH...
SWITCH!
SKRITCH
SKRITCH
カキ
カキ
.....
CARRY ME...

I'M TIRED ...
ふらふら
WOBBLE
"GO TO HELL"?
WELL ...
...GUESS I BETTER GET A MOVE ON.
GLEAM
控室 A305
Dressing Room
Kiyosumi High School
GOOD LUCK.
MAKE US PROUD.
I'VE GOT THIS.
SECOND-YEAR, KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL (NAGANO) SECOND MATCH PLAYER
MAKO SOMEYA

PAT
ポン
MAKO-SENPAI, GOOD L—

THIS TIME, I'LL MAKE SURE...
...TO GET SOME PAYBACK FOR YOU.

...!!
RIGHT...!

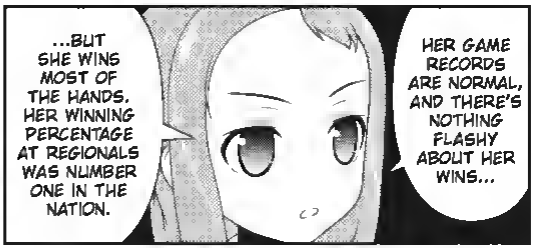

THAT'S A PROMISE! YEAH!!

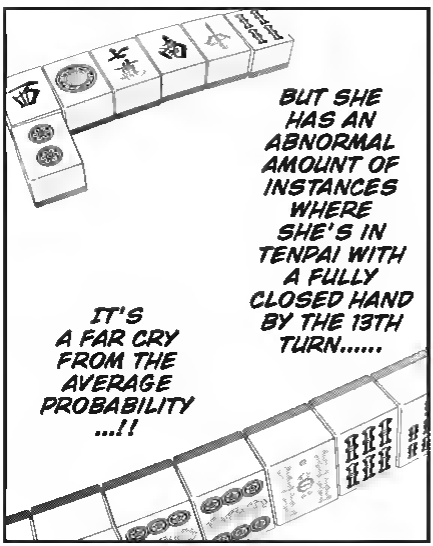
And the second match begins! The first dealer is the current leader, Miyamori Girls'!

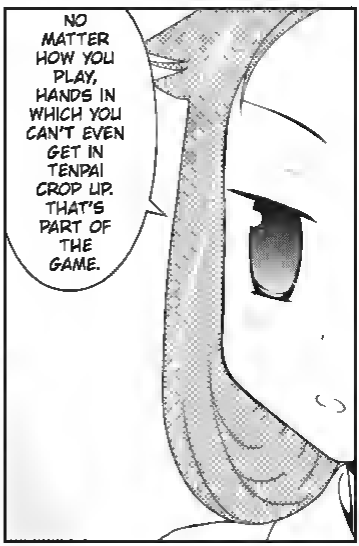
The seeded Eisui is in second place...!!
THIRD-YEAR, EISUI GIRLS' (KAGOSHIMA) SECOND MATCH PLAYER
TOMOE KARIJUKU

ARE YOUR EYES BAD, CAPTAIN?
AS FAR AS I COULD SEE, THERE WASN'T ANYTHING STRANGE ABOUT HER GAME RECORDS ...
THAT... WISHART-CHAN, IS IT? SHE SEEMS A LITTLE WEIRD.

THAT'S AMAZIN'.

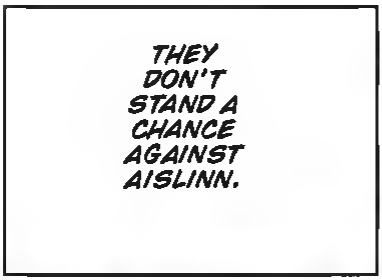

...BUT SHE WINS MOST OF THE HANDS. HER WINNING PERCENTAGE AT REGIONALS WAS NUMBER ONE IN THE NATION.
HER GAME RECORDS ARE NORMAL, AND THERE'S NOTHING FLASHY ABOUT HER WINS...

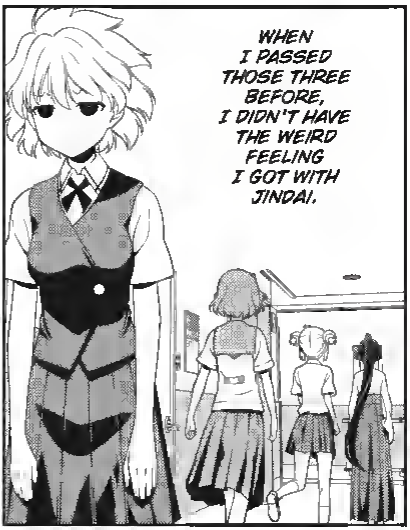

BUT SHE HAS AN ABNORMAL AMOUNT OF INSTANCES WHERE SHE'S IN TENPAI WITH A FULLY CLOSED HAND BY THE 13TH TURN.....
IT'S A FAR CRY FROM THE AVERAGE PROBABILITY ...!!

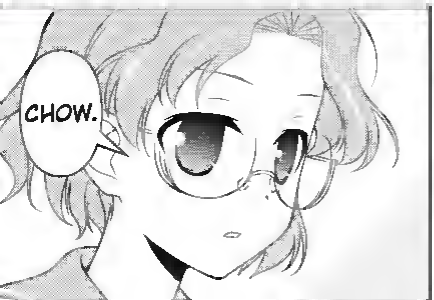

NO MATTER HOW YOU PLAY, HANDS IN WHICH YOU CAN'T EVEN GET IN TENPAI CROP UP. THAT'S PART OF THE GAME.

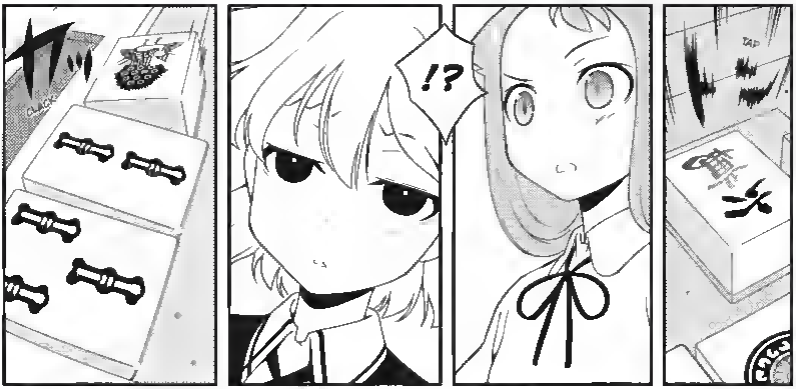
NO, OF COURSE NOT...
CAN I GO HOME...?
GO, A-CHAN!
控室 A302
Dressing Room
Miyazaki Girls' High School

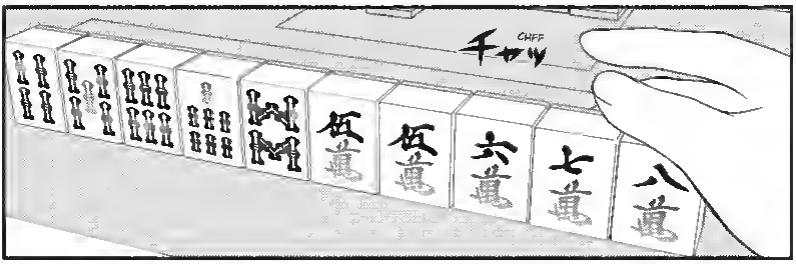
AISLINN "DRAWS" HER DREAM— HER IDEAL TILES— ONTO THE TABLE...
AFTER ALL, AISLINN'S JUST GOING TO WIN...

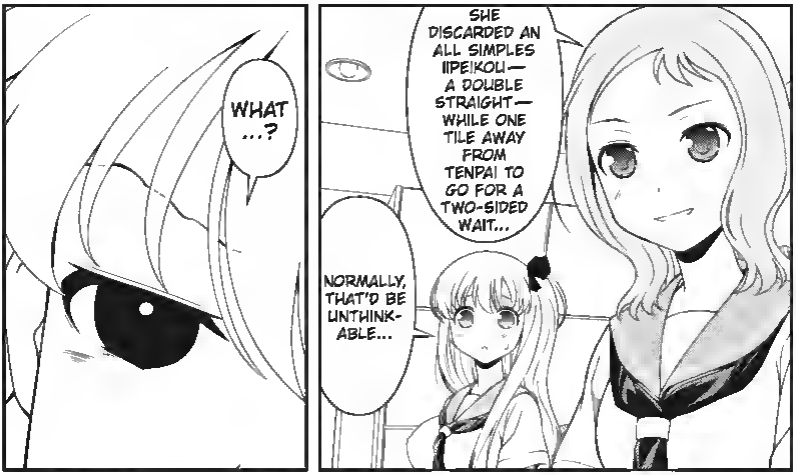

THEY DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST AISLINN.


WHEN I PASSED THOSE THREE BEFORE, I DIDN'T HAVE THE WEIRD FEELING I GOT WITH JINDAI.

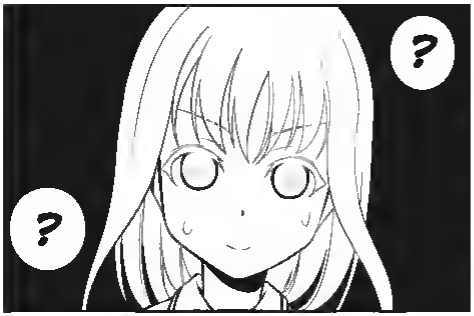

CHOW.


CLACK
!?
TAP


CHFF

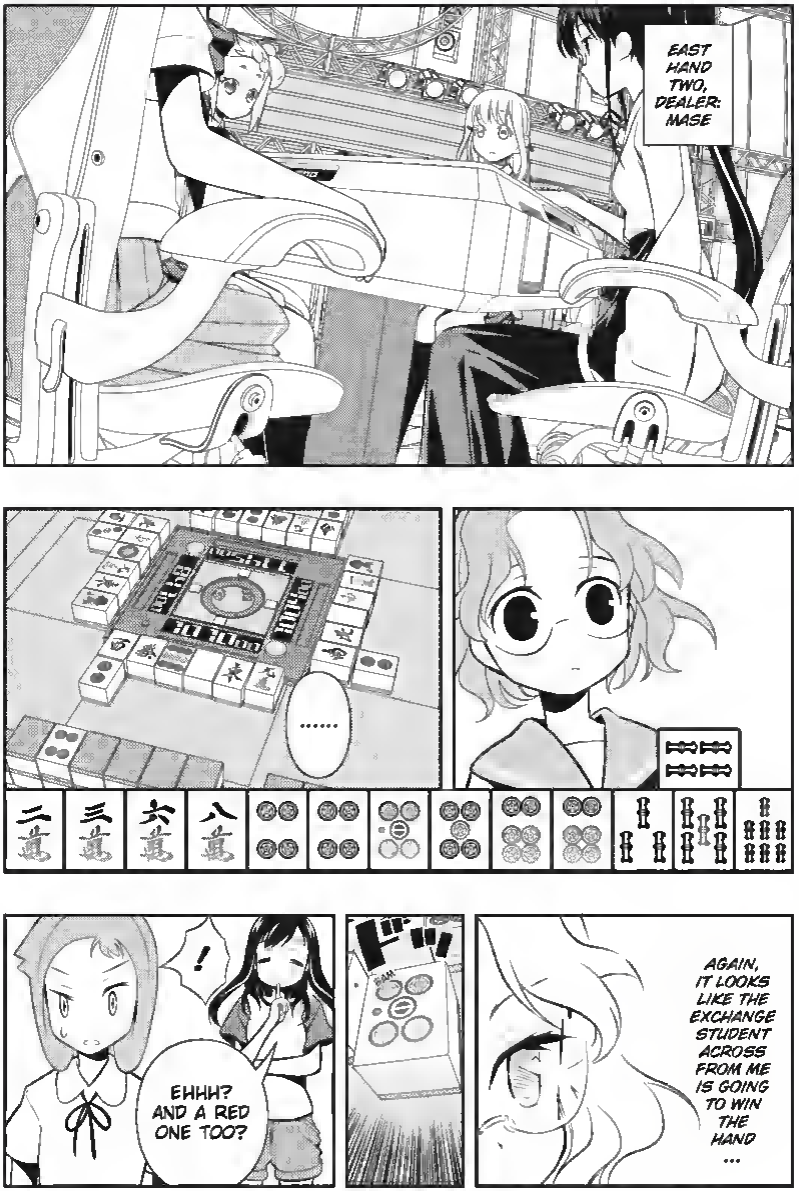

WHAT ...?
SHE DISCARDED AN ALL SIMPLES IIPEIKOU— A DOUBLE STRAIGHT— WHILE ONE TILE AWAY FROM TENPAI TO GO FOR A TWO-SIDED WAIT...
NORMALLY, THAT'D BE UNTHINK-ABLE...

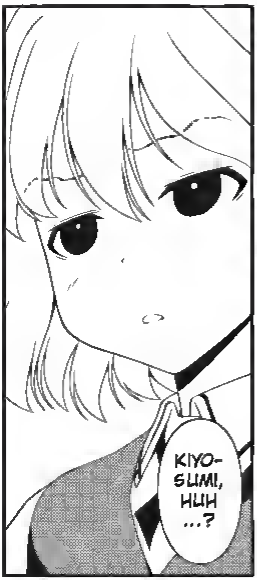
TSUMO ...!!
300/ 500!


?
?

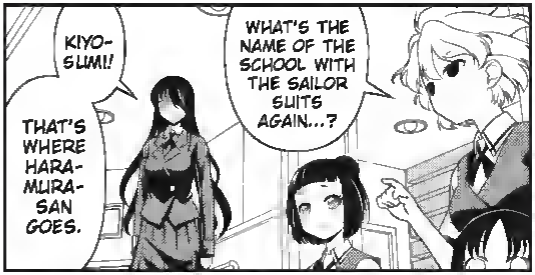
HUH ...?
SHE CALLED IT FOR A HAND LIKE THAT ...?

EVER SINCE THE OLD DAYS, THIS INSTINCT HAS RARELY LET ME DOWN.
I HAD AN INKLING THAT, IF I DIDN'T DO THIS, THE DEALER WOULD'VE TAKEN THE HAND.
THAT'S WEIRD.


EAST HAND TWO, DEALER: MASE
.....
EHHH? AND A RED ONE TOO?
!
ドッ
AGAIN, IT LOOKS LIKE THE EXCHANGE STUDENT ACROSS FROM ME IS GOING TO WIN THE HAND ...


KIYO-SUMI, HUH ...?

I'VE GOT A LOT OF DORA!
PUNG!

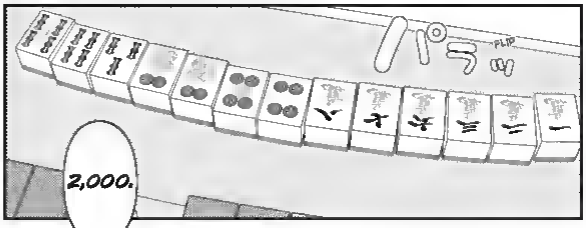

KIYO-SUMI!
THAT'S WHERE HARA-MURA-SAN GOES.
WHAT'S THE NAME OF THE SCHOOL WITH THE SAILOR SUITS AGAIN...?

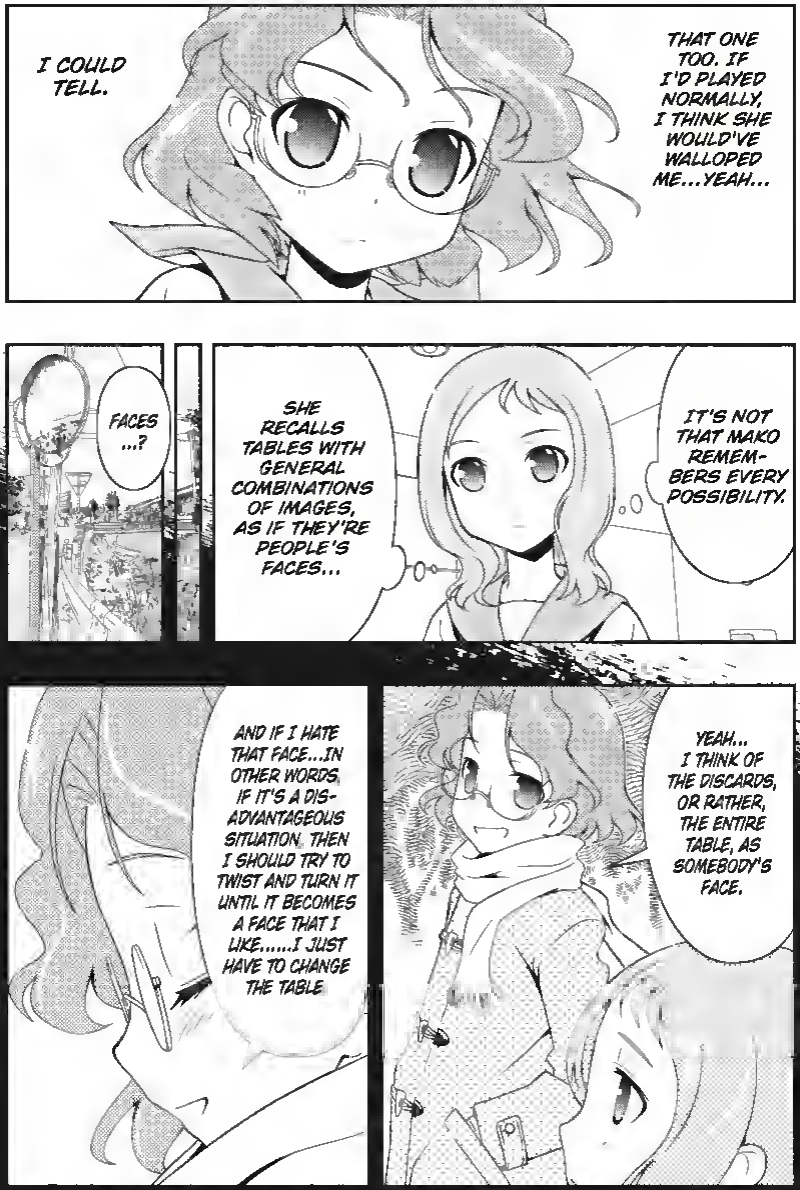
...!?
EVEN THOUGH SHE DISCARDED THE RED FIVE OF CIRCLES BEFORE...?

RON.

I'M SCARED OF THE DEALER'S 18,000-POINT HANEMAN, AND THE HAND IS ALMOST OVER...I CAN SEE ALL OF THE TWO OF CIRCLES. MAYBE I'LL BREAK MY TRIPLET TO DISCARD THE DEALER'S SAFE TILE, THE THREE OF CIRCLES.
FOUR TURNS LATER ...

.....?


FLIP
2,000.


I COULD TELL.
THAT ONE TOO. IF I'D PLAYED NORMALLY, I THINK SHE WOULD'VE WALLOPED ME...YEAH...
FACES ...?
SHE RECALLS TABLES WITH GENERAL COMBINATIONS OF IMAGES, AS IF THEY'RE PEOPLE'S FACES...
IT'S NOT THAT MAKO REMEMBERS EVERY POSSIBILITY.
AND IF I HATE THAT FACE...IN OTHER WORDS, IF IT'S A DISADVANTAGEOUS SITUATION, THEN I SHOULD TRY TO TWIST AND TURN IT UNTIL IT BECOMES A FACE THAT I LIKE.....I JUST HAVE TO CHANGE THE TABLE.
YEAH... I THINK OF THE DISCARDS, OR RATHER, THE ENTIRE TABLE, AS SOMEBODY'S FACE.

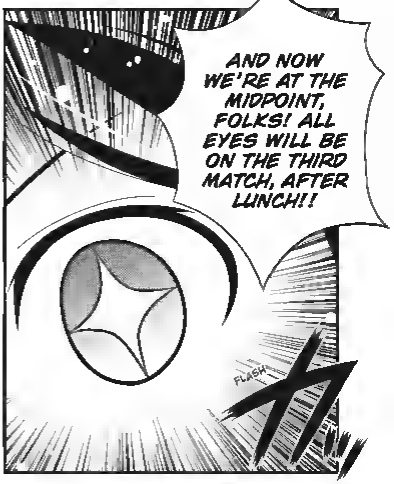
?
WHETHER IT'S SUPERNATURAL OR WHATEVER, IF MAKO'S OPPONENTS CAN ONLY MAKE "FACES" THAT SHE RECOGNIZES—
MM...
I FORGOT TO TAKE MY GLASSES OFF.

The second match is over!!
Championships
Tournament
ROAR
Kiyosumi High School has recaptured the lead —!!
MAKO ISN'T GOING TO LOSE THAT EASILY.
ROAR

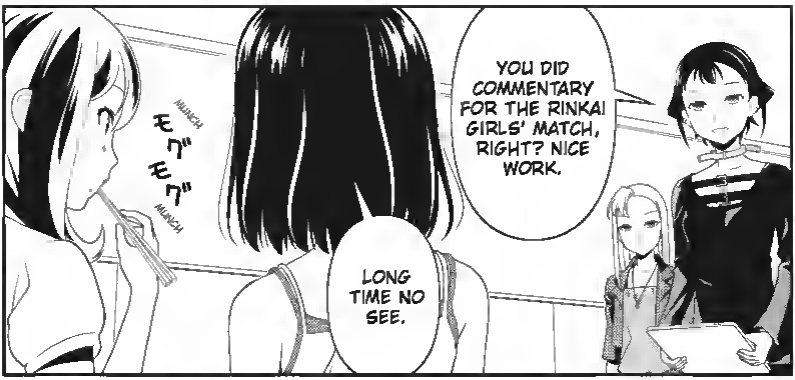
HAND 76: ANXIETY

WHAT AN ENDING TO THE SECOND MATCH —!!
RINKAI GIRLS' STILL MAINTAINS THEIR LEAD!
BUT USUZAN HIGH SCHOOL AND YAMASU HIGH SCHOOL ALSO PUT UP A HELL OF A FIGHT!

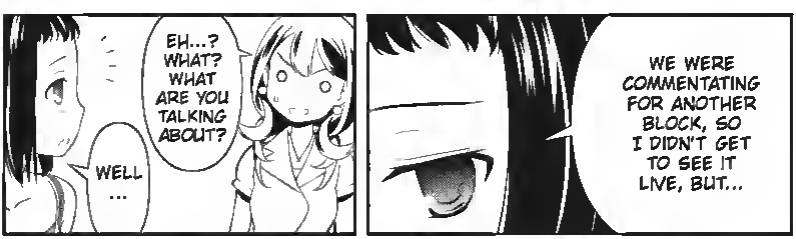
Good job.
.....
PHEW...

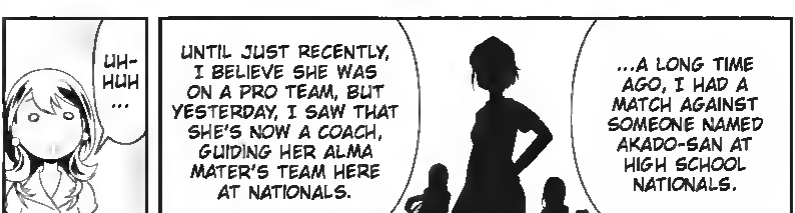

AND NOW WE'RE AT THE MIDPOINT, FOLKS! ALL EYES WILL BE ON THE THIRD MATCH, AFTER LUNCH!!
FLASH

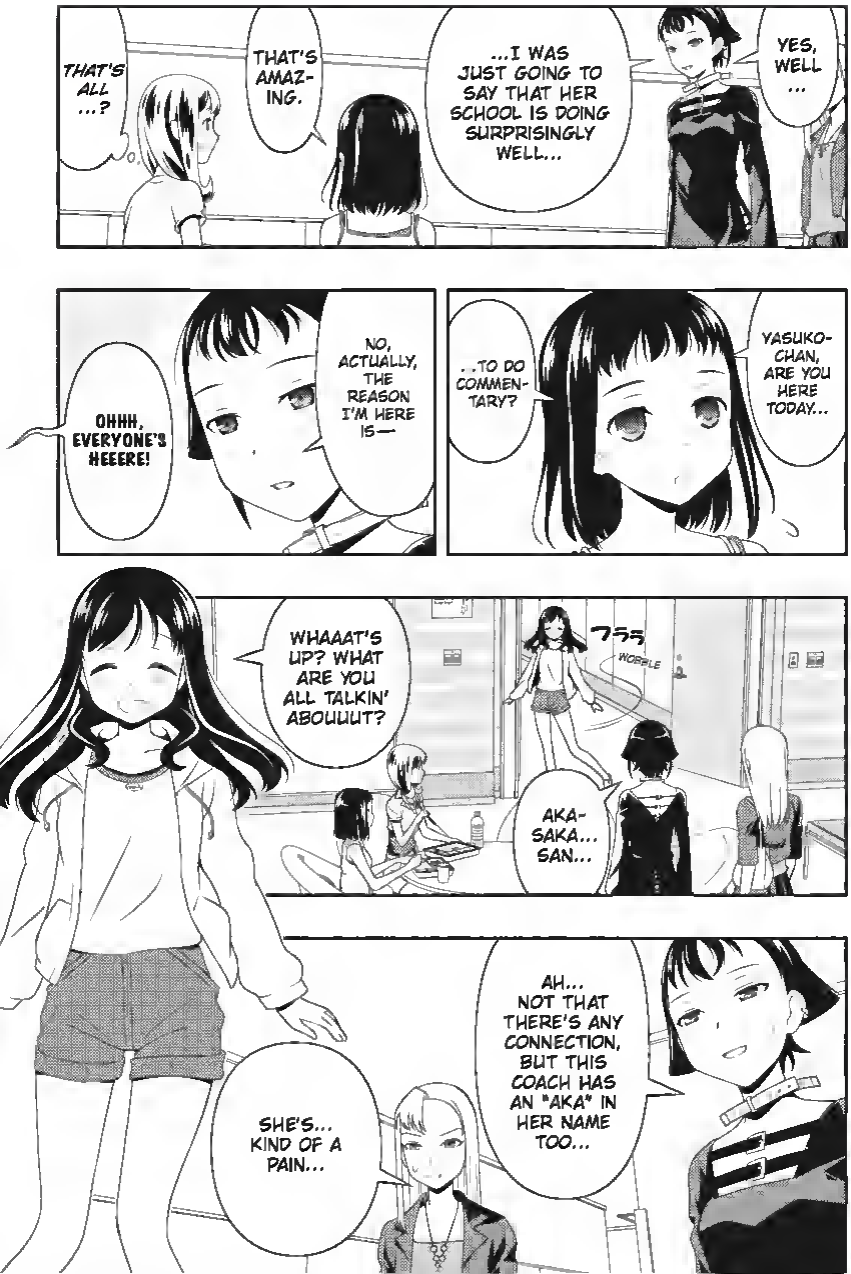
SUKOYAN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR LUNCH?
I THOUGHT I WOULD GET ONE OF THE BENTOS THEY HAVE HERE...
THEN I'LL GO WITH A BENTO TOO!
AH.
HM?
KO-KAJI-SAN.
YASUKO-CHAN...
.....AND THAT WEIRD ANNOUNCER LADY.


YOU DID COMMENTARY FOR THE RINKAI GIRLS' MATCH, RIGHT? NICE WORK.
LONG TIME NO SEE.
MUNCH
モグモグ
MUNCH

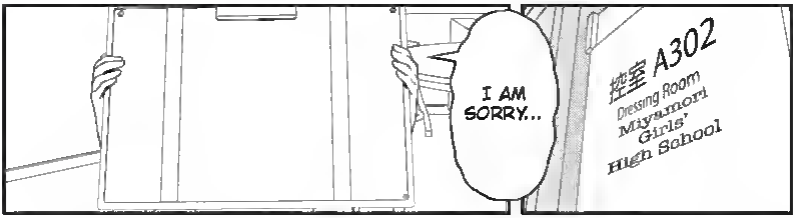
BY THE WAY.....
...DID YOU SEE YESTERDAY'S MATCH...? WITH AKADO'S—
AH... YES.


WE WERE COMMENTATING FOR ANOTHER BLOCK, SO I DIDN'T GET TO SEE IT LIVE, BUT...
EH...? WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WELL ...

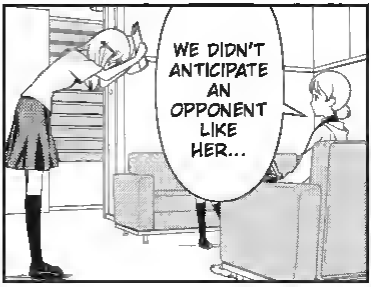

...A LONG TIME AGO, I HAD A MATCH AGAINST SOMEONE NAMED AKADO-SAN AT HIGH SCHOOL NATIONALS.
UNTIL JUST RECENTLY, I BELIEVE SHE WAS ON A PRO TEAM, BUT YESTERDAY, I SAW THAT SHE'S NOW A COACH, GUIDING HER ALMA MATER'S TEAM HERE AT NATIONALS.
UH-HUH ...

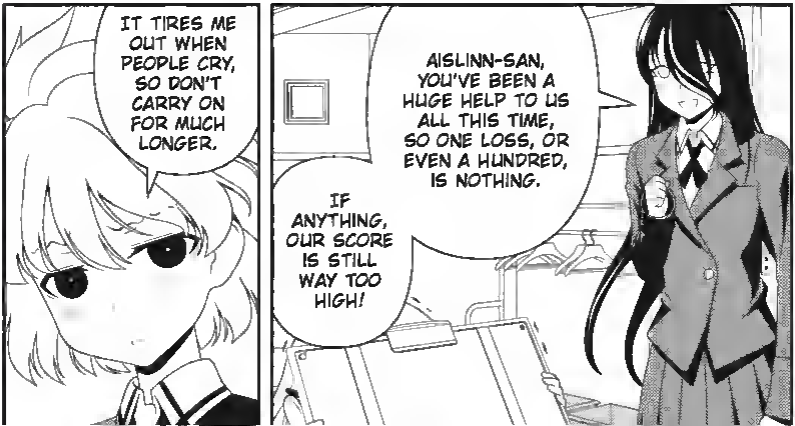

YES, WELL...
...I WAS JUST GOING TO SAY THAT HER SCHOOL IS DOING SURPRISINGLY WELL...
THAT'S AMAZING.
THAT'S ALL...?
YASUKO-CHAN, ARE YOU HERE TODAY...
..TO DO COMMENTARY?
NO, ACTUALLY, THE REASON I'M HERE IS—
OHHH, EVERYONE'S HEEERE!
AKA-SAKA... SAN...
WORRLE
WHAAAT'S UP? WHAT ARE YOU ALL TALKIN' ABOUUUT?
AH... NOT THAT THERE'S ANY CONNECTION, BUT THIS COACH HAS AN "AKA" IN HER NAME TOO...
SHE'S... KIND OF A PAIN...

?
HUH?
WHY ARE THEY GOING BACK THE WAY THEY CAME?
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.
HASTY
WELL... SEE YOU LATER.
RIGHT.

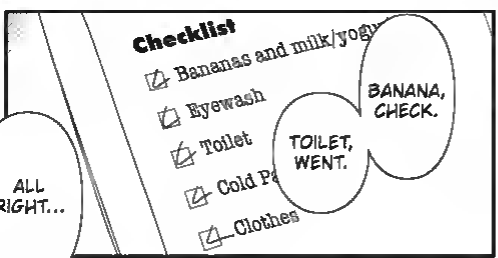

I AM SORRY...
A302
Dressing Room
Miyamori Girls' High School

WHAT ABOUT ME!?
IT'S OKAY, A-CHAN. TOYONE AND I WILL GET US BACK ON TRACK!


WE DIDN'T ANTICIPATE AN OPPONENT LIKE HER...


IT TIRES ME OUT WHEN PEOPLE CRY, SO DON'T CARRY ON FOR MUCH LONGER.
AISLINN-SAN, YOU'VE BEEN A HUGE HELP TO US ALL THIS TIME, SO ONE LOSS, OR EVEN A HUNDRED, IS NOTHING.
IF ANYTHING, OUR SCORE IS STILL WAY TOO HIGH!

SQUEEZE

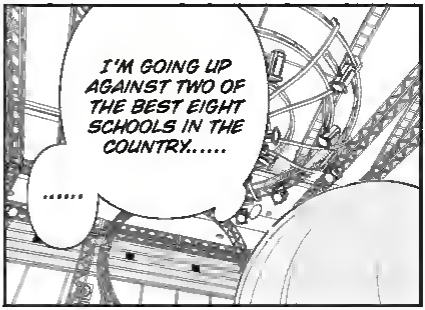

Checklist
Bananas and milk/yogu
Eyewash
Toilet
Cold Pa
Clothes
BANANA, CHECK.
TOILET, WENT.
ALL RIGHT...

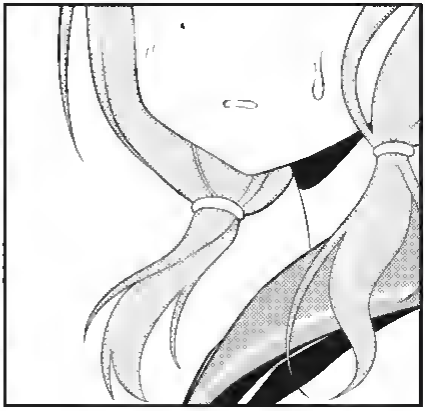
I GUESS IT'S ABOUT TIME!
CLENCH

WE STILL HAVE FIFTEEN MORE MINUTES FOR LUNCH.....
YOU'RE GOING ALREADY ?
I KNOW, BUT...
MUNCH
MUNCH

SEE YOU LATER!
TAP
...I CAN'T WAIT TO PLAY.
I'M FEELING ANTSY ...!!
.....
...IT SEEMED LIKE SHE WAS ACTING STRANGE.
FOR SOME REASON ...
All Japan High School
Inter High School

WOW, IT'S HUGE...
THE CEILING IS SO HIGH...
IT'S VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE ROOM WHERE WE PLAYED THE FIRST ROUND...


I'M GOING UP AGAINST TWO OF THE BEST EIGHT SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY.....
.....

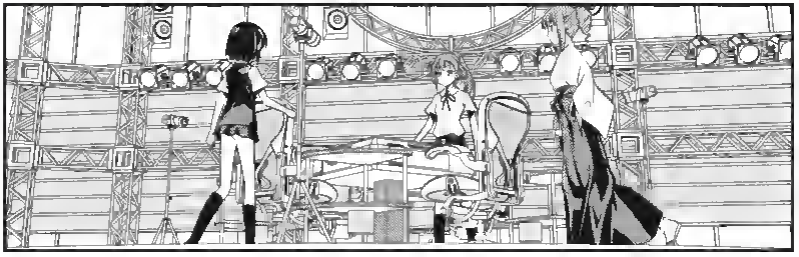


CRAP—

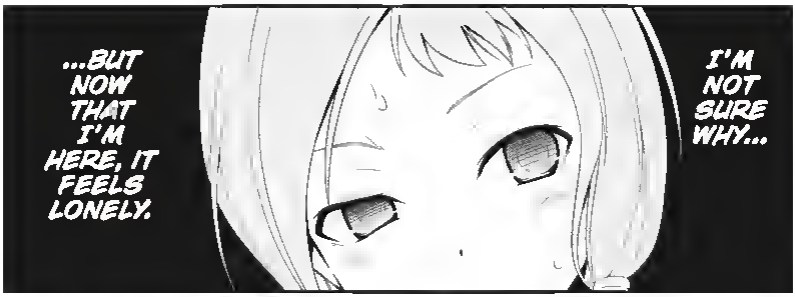
All Ja
High School MAHJONG Champ
DUN

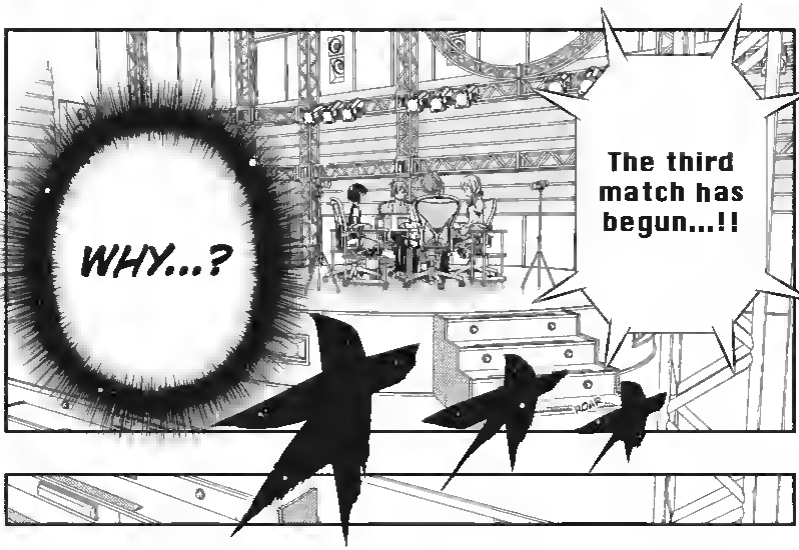
EH
.....?

...MINUTES HAVE I JUST BEEN STANDING HERE—!?
HOW MANY...

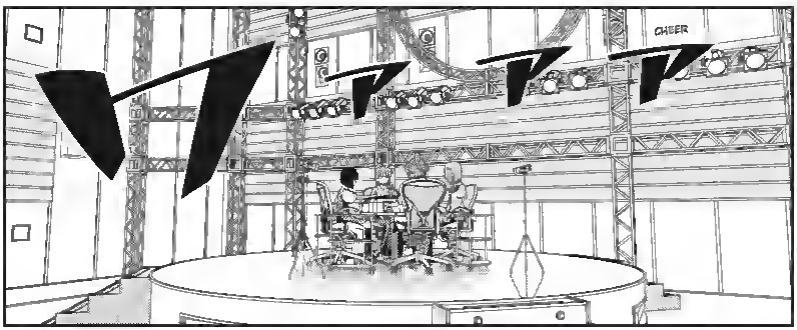


GREAT
I HAVE TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF THEM...
1 128000
THANKS TO YUUKI AND MAKO, WE'VE GOT A DECENT AMOUNT OF POINTS.....
I HAVE TO WIN.....
I'M SURE EVERYONE FROM THE PREFECTURAL QUALIFIER IS WATCHING TOO.


...BUT NOW THAT I'M HERE, IT FEELS LONELY.
I'M NOT SURE WHY...


WHY...?
The third match has begun...!!

HAND 77: ATROPHY


CHEER

THIRD-YEAR, KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL (NAGANO) THIRD MATCH PLAYER
HISA TAKEI
112,800
EAST HAND ONE, 5TH TURN

I CAN SEE YOUR HAND.
EH?
THREE OF CHARACTERS, HUH?

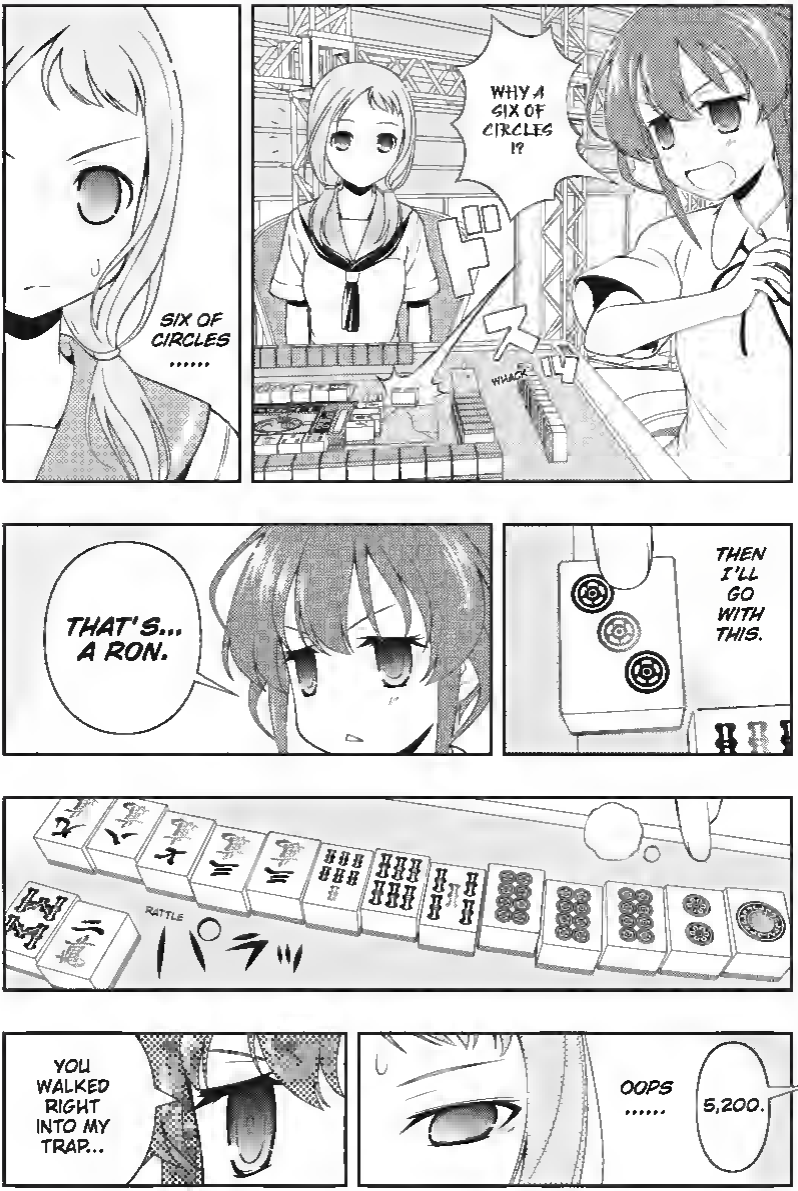
HEY.
KIYO-SUMI-HAN!

AAAAAH!!
SNATCH
チャリ
AH!
.....
I HAVEN'T ACCIDENTALLY SHOWN A TILE* LIKE THAT SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL .....!!
UNBELIEV-ABLE...
*IN MANY CASES, MISTAKENLY SHOWING ONE'S TILES TO OTHER PLAYERS RESULTS IN A PENALTY
カチャ
CHIK
OH!
THIS IS THE HIGH-SCORING PLAYER FROM KIYOSUMI WHO BROUGHT DOWN RYUMONBUCHI...?
IS SHE NERVOUS? IS SHE A NOVICE OR A DUMBASS...? I'M KINDA DISAPPOINTED.
THIRD-YEAR, HIMEMATSU HIGH SCHOOL (SOUTH OSAKA) THIRD MATCH PLAYER
HIROE ATAGO
90,600
THEN I THINK I'LL CHEER MYSELF UP!

GUT PUNCH RIICHI!
BOOM

THE EARLY BIRD GETS THE WORM ...!!
ROAR

.....
FIRST-YEAR, EIBUI GIRLS' (KAGOSHIMA) THIRD MATCH PLAYER
HARU TAKIMI
93,100
WHAT AN IDIOT!
THIRD-YEAR, MIYAMORI GIRLS' (IWATE) THIRD MATCH PLAYER
KURUMI KAKURA
103,500
SAFE TILES.....
ONLY THE ONE THAT SHE JUST PLAYED..
A RIICHI ON THE FIFTH TURN.....I'M THREE TILES AWAY FROM TENPAI.
HERE IT COMES! GET READY FOR MY IPPATSU !!
CLICK
TAK


SIX OF CIRCLES .....
WHY A SIX OF CIRCLES !?
HMACK
THAT'S... A RON.
THEN I'LL GO WITH THIS.
RATTLE
YOU WALKED RIGHT INTO MY TRAP...
OOPS .....
5,200.

BOOM
THAT'S WHY THEY CALL ME...
...HIROE THE AFTER-RIICHI TRAPPER !!

TH-THOUGH THE TRAP WAS BY CHANCE IN THIS CASE...

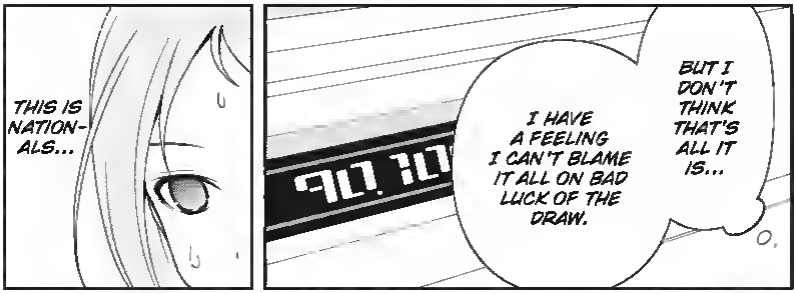
NEXT ...
... DEALER.
I'LL ROLL.
BEEP

ULP..... I CAN'T FOCUS .....

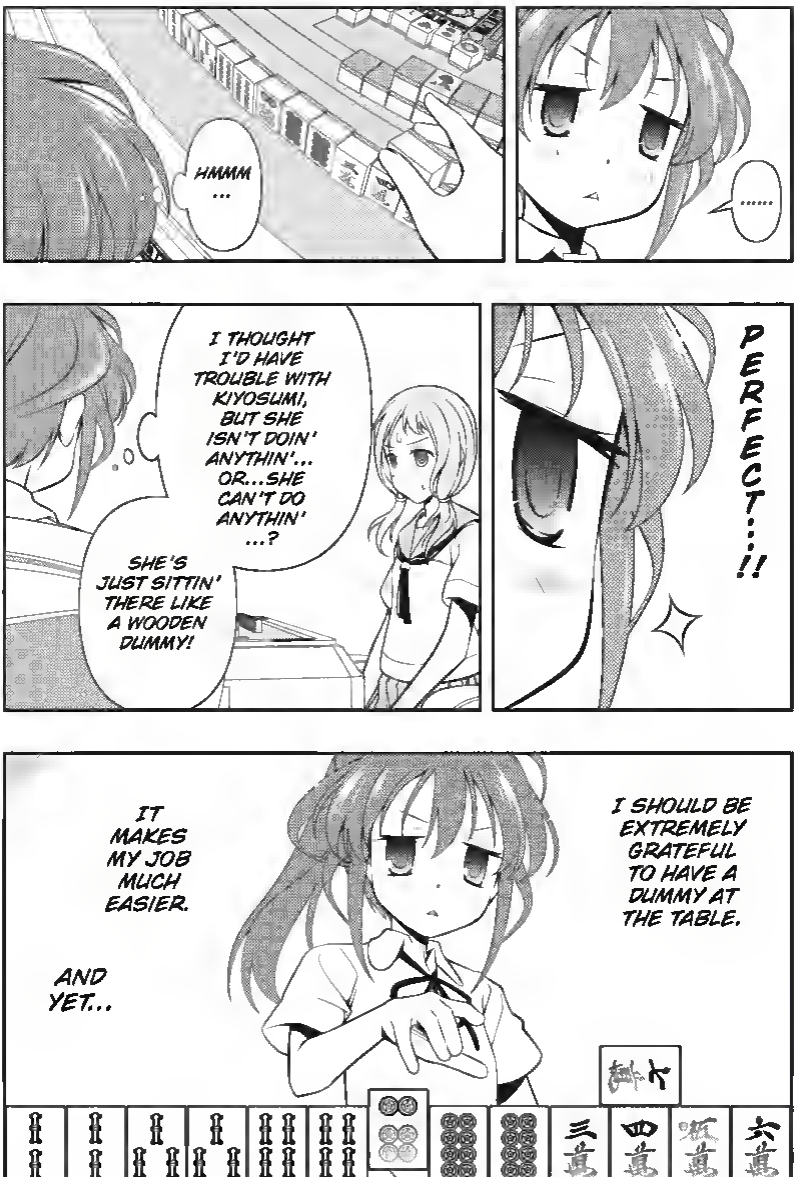
QUIET, YOU!

SSSHH
I'M IN A BIND...
NGH...

THIRD MATCH, FIRST HALF, SOUTH HAND THREE
WHEN YOU'VE PLAYED AS MANY MATCHES AS I HAVE, THIS KIND OF THING CAN HAPPEN...
SOUTH HAND THREE, AND I HAVEN'T WON A SINGLE HAND YET.....


THIS IS NATIONALS...
I HAVE A FEELING I CAN'T BLAME IT ALL ON BAD LUCK OF THE DRAW.
BUT I DON'T THINK THAT'S ALL IT IS...

...THAT GOOD...
THEY MAY JUST BE...


HMMM...
.....
I THOUGHT I'D HAVE TROUBLE WITH KIYOSUMI, BUT SHE ISN'T DOIN' ANYTHIN'... OR...SHE CAN'T DO ANYTHIN' ...?
SHE'S JUST SITTIN' THERE LIKE A WOODEN DUMMY!
PERFECT...!!
IT MAKES MY JOB MUCH EASIER.
I SHOULD BE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO HAVE A DUMMY AT THE TABLE.
AND YET...

RON.
TAK
CHIP
18,000!
!
WHAT'S THAT FACE FOR...?
YOU DIDN'T HAVE THE FOGGIEST IDEA I WAS IN TENPAI?
QUIVER
THIS IS BORING IF YOU'RE THAT DENSE.

I THINK EVEN NODOKA AND SAKI WILL HAVE A HARD TIME AGAINST OPPONENTS HERE AT NATIONALS.
THIS IS BAD...
BUT NOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN .....!?
AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I WANT TO DISTANCE MYSELF FROM THE OTHERS IN THIS THIRD MATCH.
THIS IS...
I'M DISTANCING MYSELF FROM THE OTHER PLAYERS, BUT IN THE WRONG DIRECTION...
AT THIS RATE, COULD WE BE...

...ELIMINATED...!?

EVEN IF WE MAKE IT TO THE FINALS, I'LL BE ABLE TO PLAY JUST SIX MORE HANCHAN... NO, FIVE.

THIS IS THE LAST YEAR I CAN BE AT THE HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPI-ONSHIP —

JUST ONE LEFT ...!?

...IT'LL ALL BE OVER WITH THE NEXT HAN-CHAN.

BUT IF I LOSE HERE...

ARE YOU KIDDING ME!?
HOW BORING WOULD THAT BE...!?

THIS IS BORING IF YOU'RE THAT DENSE.

SOMEBODY ELSE SAID "BORING" A FEW MINUTES AGO...

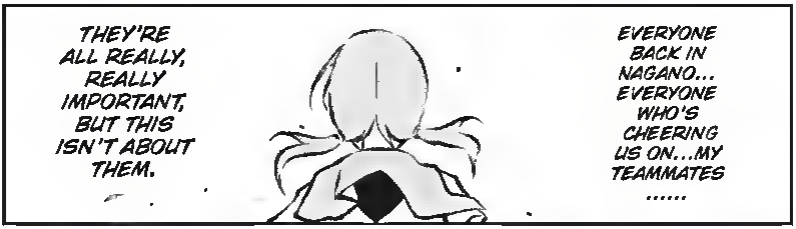
AH...

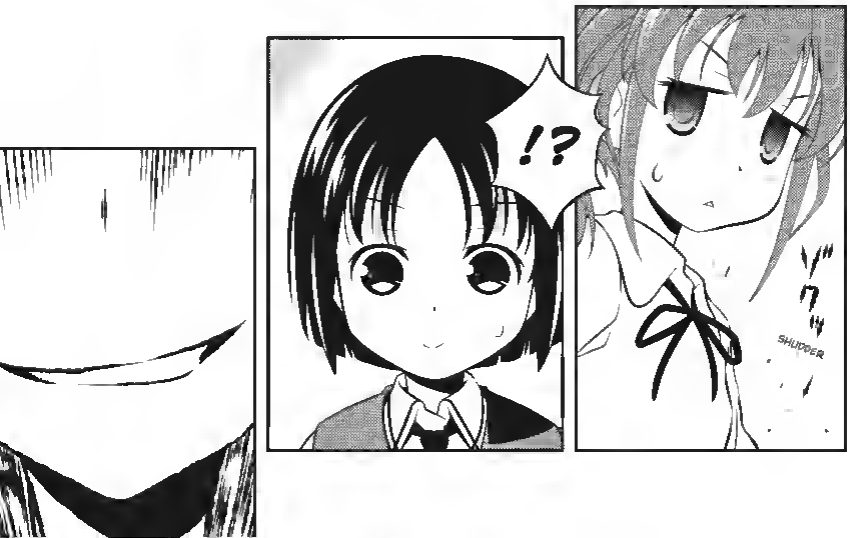
I MAY HAVE BEEN LOOKING AT THIS THE WRONG WAY...

I SEE ...
SIGH..

THIS GIRL IS TRYING TO HAVE A GOOD TIME.....

ROAR


THEY'RE ALL REALLY, REALLY IMPORTANT, BUT THIS ISN'T ABOUT THEM.
EVERYONE BACK IN NAGANO... EVERYONE WHO'S CHEERING US ON...MY TEAMMATES .....


!?
SHUDDER

WHOOSH
I HAVE TO THINK ABOUT MYSELF FIRST .....!!
IF I'M NOT HAVING FUN...
...NOTHING GOOD WILL COME!!

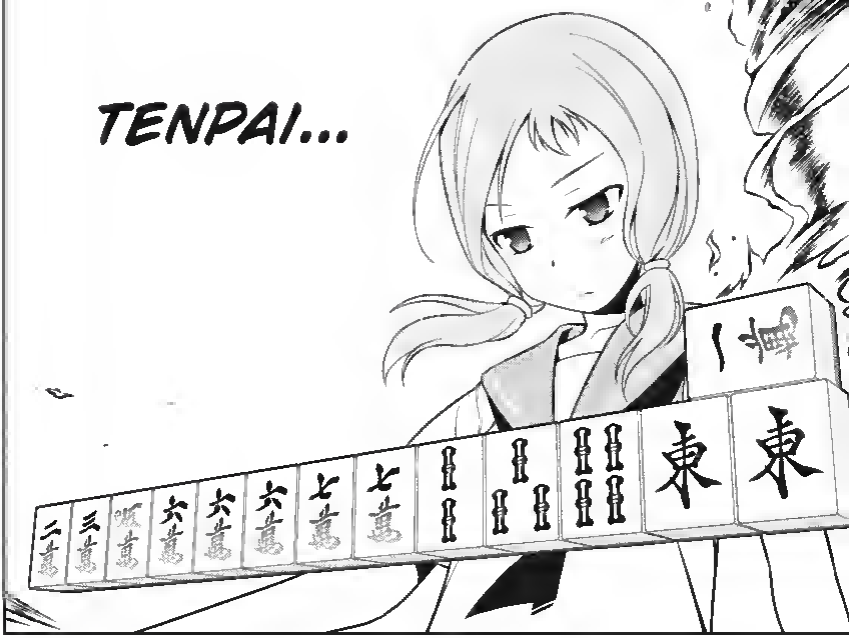
HAND 78: COMEBACK

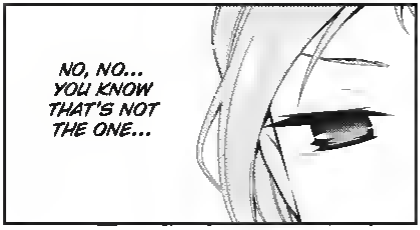
SOUTH HAND THREE, BONUS HAND 1
ROAR
.....
THE DUMMY'S GOT SOME LIFE IN HER AFTER ALL...

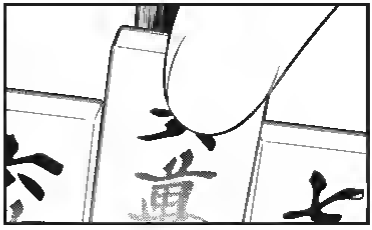
I HOPE WE CAN FINALLY START PLAYING MAHJONG THAT'S WORTHY OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP.
DEALER! HURRY UP AND DRAW!
I WONDER IF NODOKA WOULD LAUGH AT ME.
AFTER MY MOOD CHANGED, IT SEEMS I'M HAVING BETTER LUCK.
GOOD DRAW...

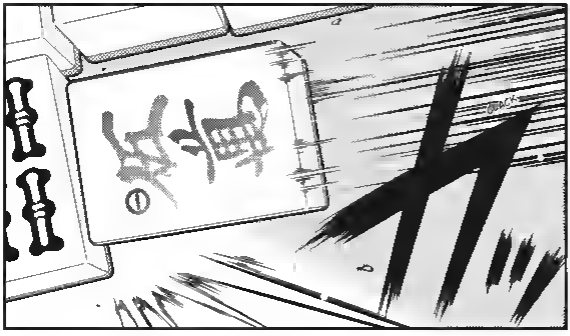
TAP
RIGHT AFTER THE DEALER DISCARDED EAST, A LIVE TILE, IT SHOWS UP...
CLICK
TAP
TOK
TAK

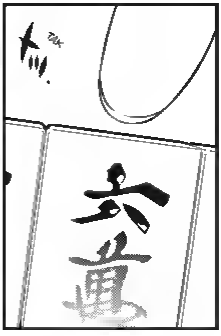
TAP
HUH?
CLICK
SWIPE


TENPAI...


NO, NO...
YOU KNOW
THAT'S NOT
THE ONE...

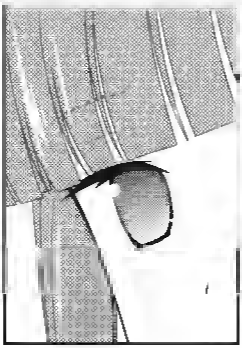






RIICHI ...!!
!
THERE IT IS...
...AWFUL WAIT!!
KIYO-SUMI'S ...

WHAT ...!?
控室A
Dressing R
Kiyos
High Sc



.....

STILL, I'M RELIEVED.
EH ...?
I WAS NERVOUS BECAUSE THE CAPTAIN DIDN'T SEEM LIKE HERSELF UNTIL JUST BEFORE...
UNTHINKABLE...!!
SHE DISCARDED PINFU, IIPEIKOU, AND A RED FIVE...?
YES, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...I WAS RELIEVED BEFORE BECAUSE SHE WASN'T REALLY PLAYING IN HER USUAL DEVIL-MAY-CARE STYLE...
..BUT NOW I'M THE ONE WHO'S NERVOUS!!
TWITCH
ビクッ

IS SHE REALLY OKAY?
FIRST, SHE GOES HAYWIRE ON HER OWN... THEN SHE MAKES A COMEBACK ON HER OWN...
.....
.....
EAST..... HM...?
CHIK
TAK
VOOM
ゴゴゴ

!!
FLIP
SNAP

TSUMO!!
10
CLICK
BOOM

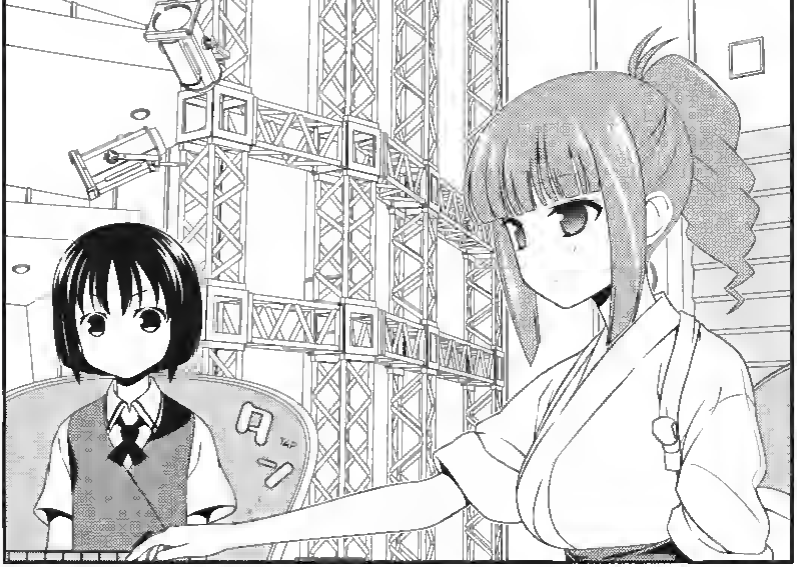
I THINK I'M GETTING INTO MY GROOVE...
4,100/ 8,100 ...!!
WHAT

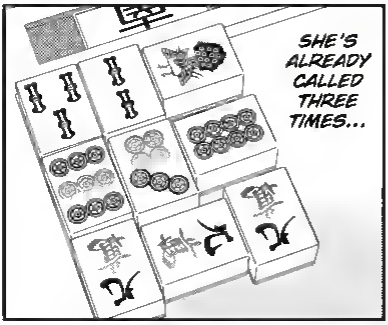
オオオ
ROAR!
I'M GONNA CRUSH HER...
IT FEELS LIKE, IF SHE WERE JUST A BIT BETTER, WE'D BE EVENLY MATCHED.
HEH-HEH.
.....
CLICK
ピンッ

HAND 79: COMPLICATION

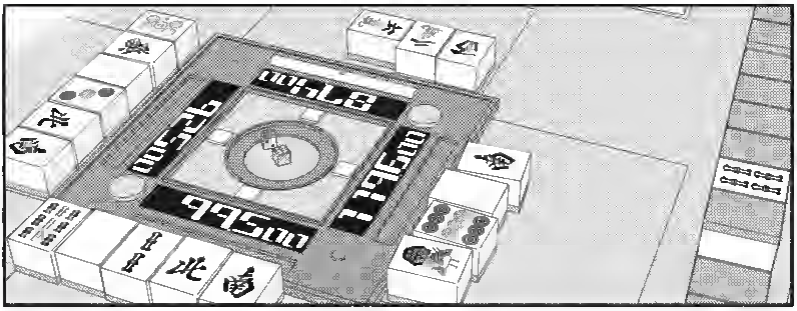
SOUTH HAND FOUR (LAST HAND)
RIICHI!
FINISH
IN THE FIFTH TURN .....!!
!
NOW SHE'S WARMED UP...

ROAR
ROAR
DEALER:
HISA
TAKEI



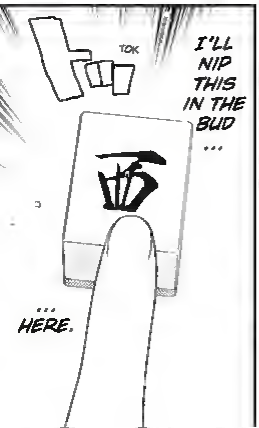

SHE'S ALREADY CALLED THREE TIMES...

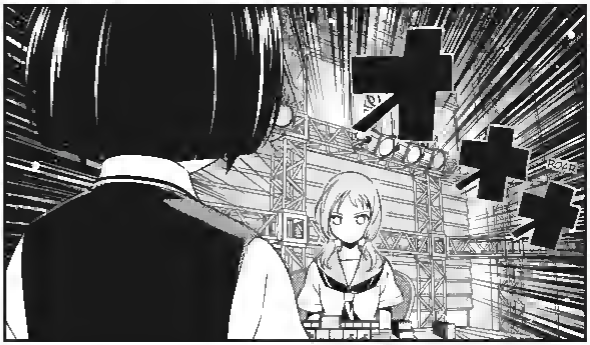
EISUI .....



WOULD SHE REALLY DISCARD A RED FIVE TO MAKE SUCH AN OBVIOUSLY CHEAP HAND...?
AS LONG AS SHE DOESN'T HAVE A VALUE HONOR OR TWO DORA, THE MOST SHE CAN MUSTER IS 2,600 POINTS.....

I SEE...
.....


TOK
I'LL NIP THIS IN THE BUD ...
... HERE.



HERE.
RON.
ONE THOU-SAND
CHEER
And that's it for the first half of the third match!!
Himematsu High School made major gains, catapulting itself from last place to the lead...!!
GIRLS, GOOD GAME! HOPE THE SECOND HALF ISN'T LAME! ♪

I FEEL GUILTY FOR LOSING POINTS THAT MAKO EARNED...
.....
RUSTLE
カサ
CREAK
KIKAIJIMA KOKU
BROWN CANE SUGAR
KIKAIJIMA BRAND
MUNCH
ポリポリ
MUNCH
SWF
KIKAIJIMA KOKUTO
BROWN CANE SUGAR
MAYBE A DOSE OF SUGAR FOR HER BRAIN.....? ALTHOUGH IT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE SHE WAS THINKING ALL THAT HARD...
HUH?
YOU'RE OFFERING .....?

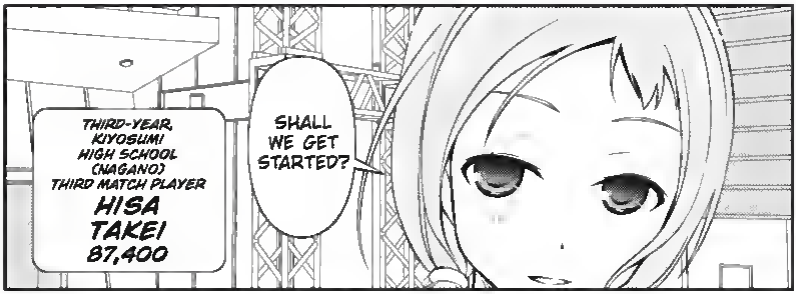
I SEE...
CRUNCH
EXIT
I KNOW MY BROWN SUGAR ...
SMILE
NOD
THEY'RE EASY TO EAT BUT ALSO TASTY.
控室 A309
Dressing Room
Eisui Girls' High School
WHOA...
HARURU IS SMILING...
SHE ONLY SMILES IF THE CONVERSATION IS ABOUT BROWN CANE SUGAR OR KIKAI CALDERA...

キィィ
SCREECH
ダダダ
DASH
HOW WAS II?
BUT KIYOSUMI... HAD A GOOD FINAL WAIT, DIDN'T SHE?
YOU GOT BACK ALL OUR POINTS. THAT'S JUST LIKE YOU, CAPTAIN.
I KNOW, RIGHT? JUST WHAT YOU EXPECTED, RIGHT?
IT WAS A DECENT FOUR-SIDED WAIT.
THOUGHT SO!

I'M NOT REALLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU OR KINU-CHAN...
...BUT I'M ANXIOUS FOR MYSELF.
WHY?
IT SEEMED LIKE KIYOSUMI WAS RARIN' TO RUN ROUGHSHOD AS THE FINAL DEALER, BUT THE OTHER TWO SHUT HER DOWN.
FOR THE SECOND HALF, I'LL KEEP DOING MY THING AND RACKING UP THE POINTS!
THE LAST MATCH IS A MENAGERIE OF MONSTERS ...
...BUT THEN I THINK...
...JUST HOW FAR CAN A NORMAL PERSON LIKE ME GET?
I'M KINDA LOOKING FORWARD TO FINDING OUT.

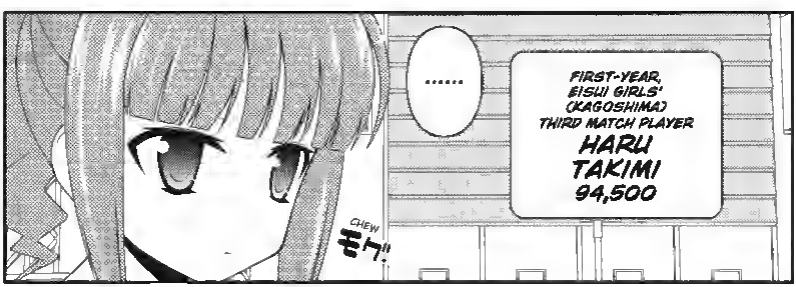
.....
控室 A302
Dressing Room
Miyamori
Girls'
High School
THE KIYOSUMI GIRL IS A RIOT!
OH, THAT ONE MOVE!
CHARGING! CHARGING!
.....
A HA HA!
IT WAS SO SPECTACULAR THAT I FAILED TO PUT MY GUARD UP.....!!

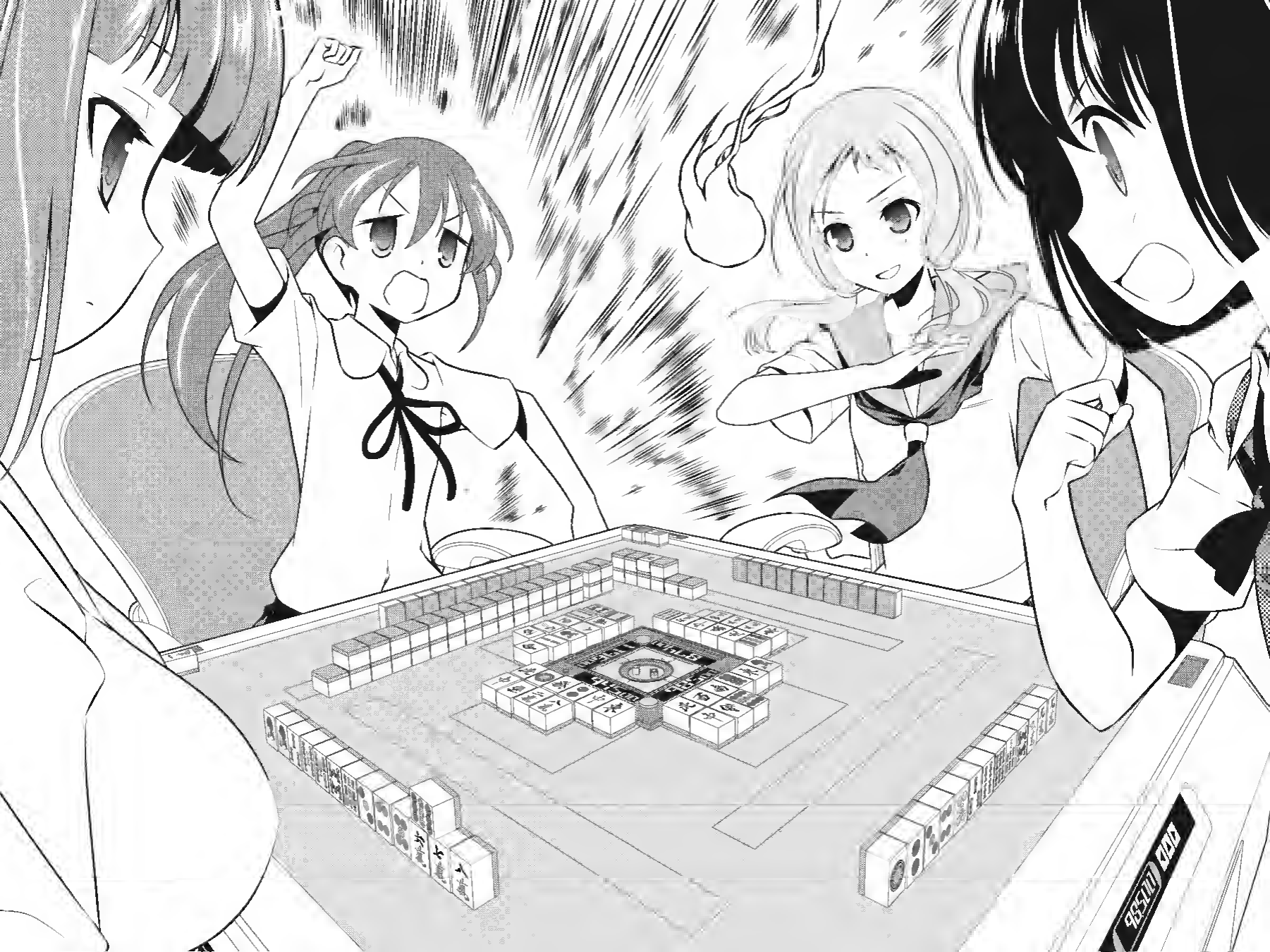
CHIFF
PEEL
MM ...
HERE THEY COME.
.....
HEY—!
HELLO .....
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THE SECOND HALF TOO.
SO AM I.


THIRD-YEAR, KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL (NAGANO) THIRD MATCH PLAYER
HISA TAKEI
87,400
SHALL WE GET STARTED?

I'M GONNA STAY ON TOP, YOU KNOW.
THIRD-YEAR, HIMEMATSU HIGH SCHOOL (SOUTH OSAKA) THIRD MATCH PLAYER
HIROE ATAGO
119,600

THIRD-YEAR, MIYAMORI GIRLS' (IWATE) THIRD MATCH PLAYER
KURUMI KAKURA
98,500
I WON'T LET YOU!!


.....
FIRST-YEAR, EISUI GIRLS' (KAGOSHIMA) THIRD MATCH PLAYER
HARU TAKIMI
94,500
CHEW
もぐ!!

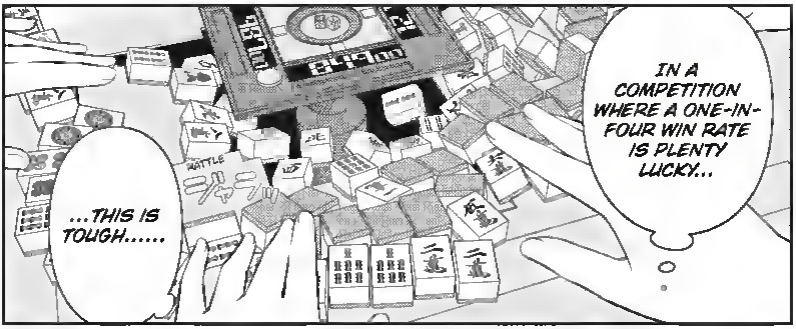


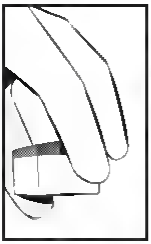
The second half of the third match has begun!!

This marks the halfway point of the second round!!

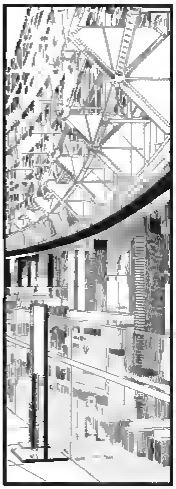
HAND 80: RESULT

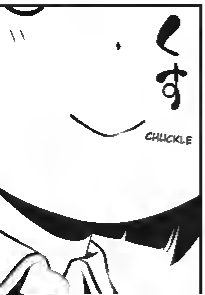
EAST HAND TWO, BONUS HAND 1
RIICHI!
PUNG.
CLICK!
CLICK!
RON. 1,300.
FINE.
.....
TAP
CLICK
ANOTHER FAST HAND.....
.....


...THIS IS TOUGH.....
IN A COMPETITION WHERE A ONE-IN-FOUR WIN RATE IS PLENTY LUCKY...

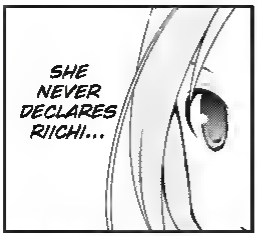


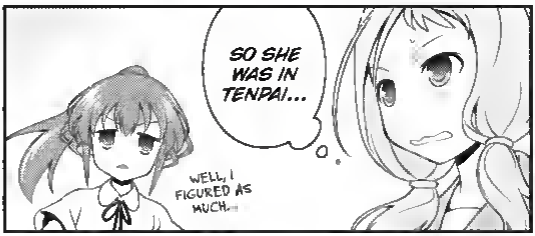
EAST HAND THREE




CHUCKLE

ポン
TSUMO!
1,600/
3,200!


SHE NEVER DECLARES RIICHI...

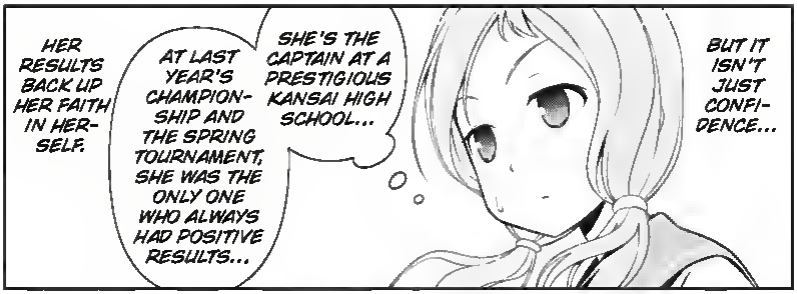

SO SHE WAS IN TENPAI...
WELL, I FIGURED AS MUCH.

...TO ME, THIS GIRL IS THE BIGGEST MYSTERY...

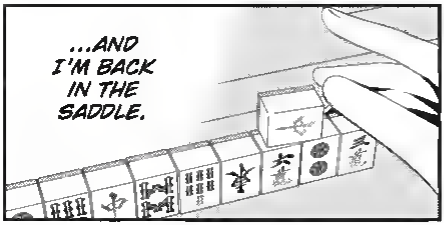
HER PAST RECORDS SHOW SHE ALWAYS KEEPS QUIET ABOUT TENPAI...SHE'S NOT AS BAD AS MOMO-CHAN, WHOSE SIGNS ARE INVISIBLE, BUT...

EAST HAND FOUR
RIICHI, I GUESS.
CLICK
CHOW.
THAT'S A RON.
!
THUNK
.....
LOOKS LIKE IT WORKED WITH KIYOSUMI ANYWAY.
SO WHEN SOMEONE'S ABOUT TO WIN, YOU LIKE TO CLAIM THE FLOW WITH A CHEAP HAND...?

IF YOU THINK I'M LIKE THE OTHERS, YOU'RE IN BIG TROUBLE.
I'M IN A DIFFERENT LEAGUE.
SHE'S SO CONFI-DENT...
RATTLE
ガラ
NOBODY CARES JUST TELL US HOW MANY POINTS!
AH...IT'S 5,200...

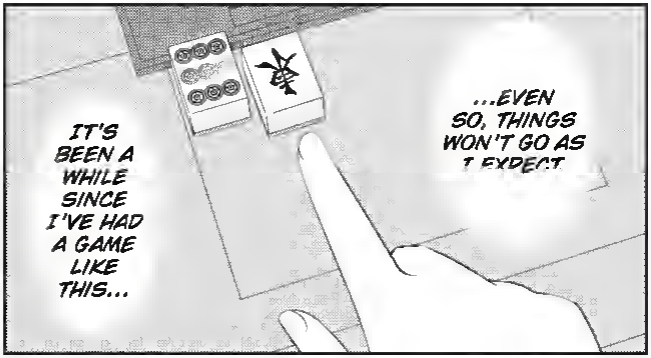

HER RESULTS BACK UP HER FAITH IN HERSELF.
AT LAST YEAR'S CHAMPIONSHIP AND THE SPRING TOURNAMENT, SHE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO ALWAYS HAD POSITIVE RESULTS...
SHE'S THE CAPTAIN AT A PRESTIGIOUS KANSAI HIGH SCHOOL...
BUT IT ISN'T JUST CONFIDENCE...

BUT I'M NOT ENVIOUS.....
AND SHE SHOWS NO HESITATION.

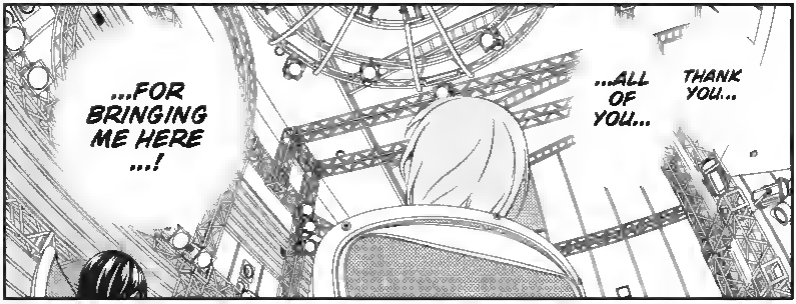

...AND I'M BACK IN THE SADDLE.

MY ANXIETY HAS DISSIPATED ...

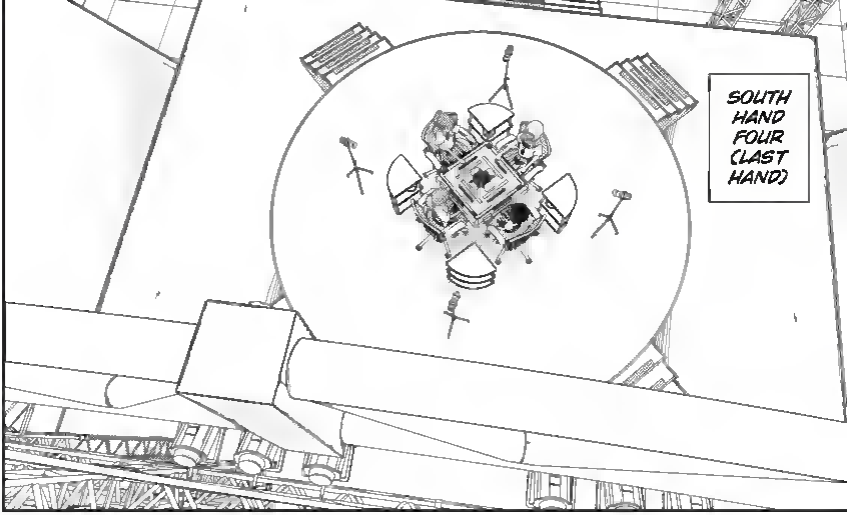
SHIVER

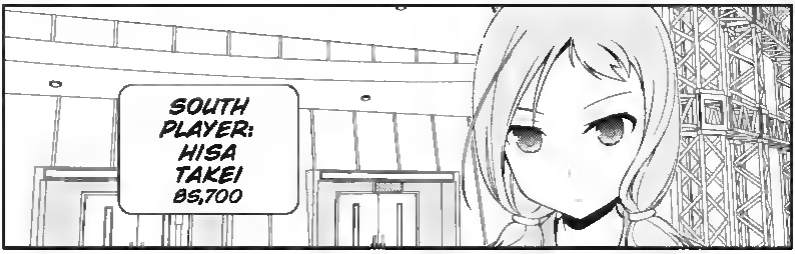

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE HAD A GAME LIKE THIS...
...EVEN SO, THINGS WON'T GO AS I EXPECT

THANK YOU.

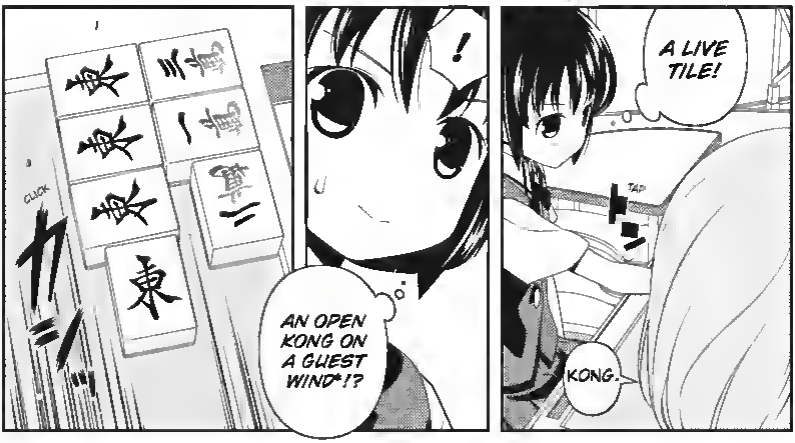


WELL...
...MAYBE I'LL WAIT HERE TOO...
I'VE BEEN WAITING IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE, BUT IT WAS WORTH IT.
...SINCE WAITING IS SOMETHING I'M USED TO...!!



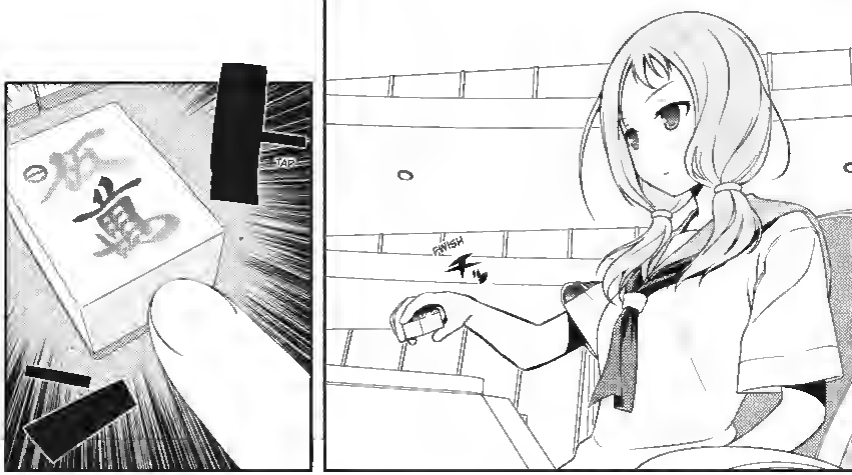


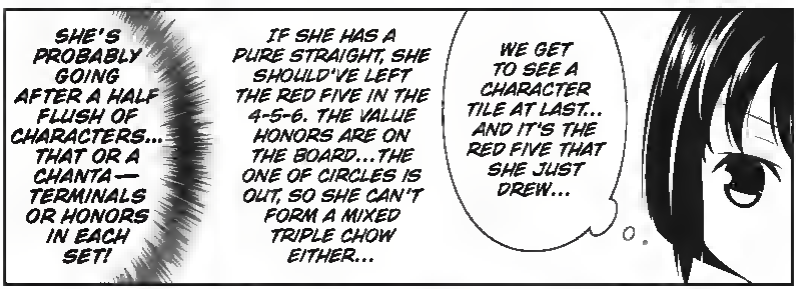
GUEST WIND: WIND TILE THAT IS NEITHER A ROUND WIND NOR A SEAT WIND. HONOR TILE THAT DOESN'T FORM A SCORING PATTERN, EVEN IF THREE ARE PUT TOGETHER.

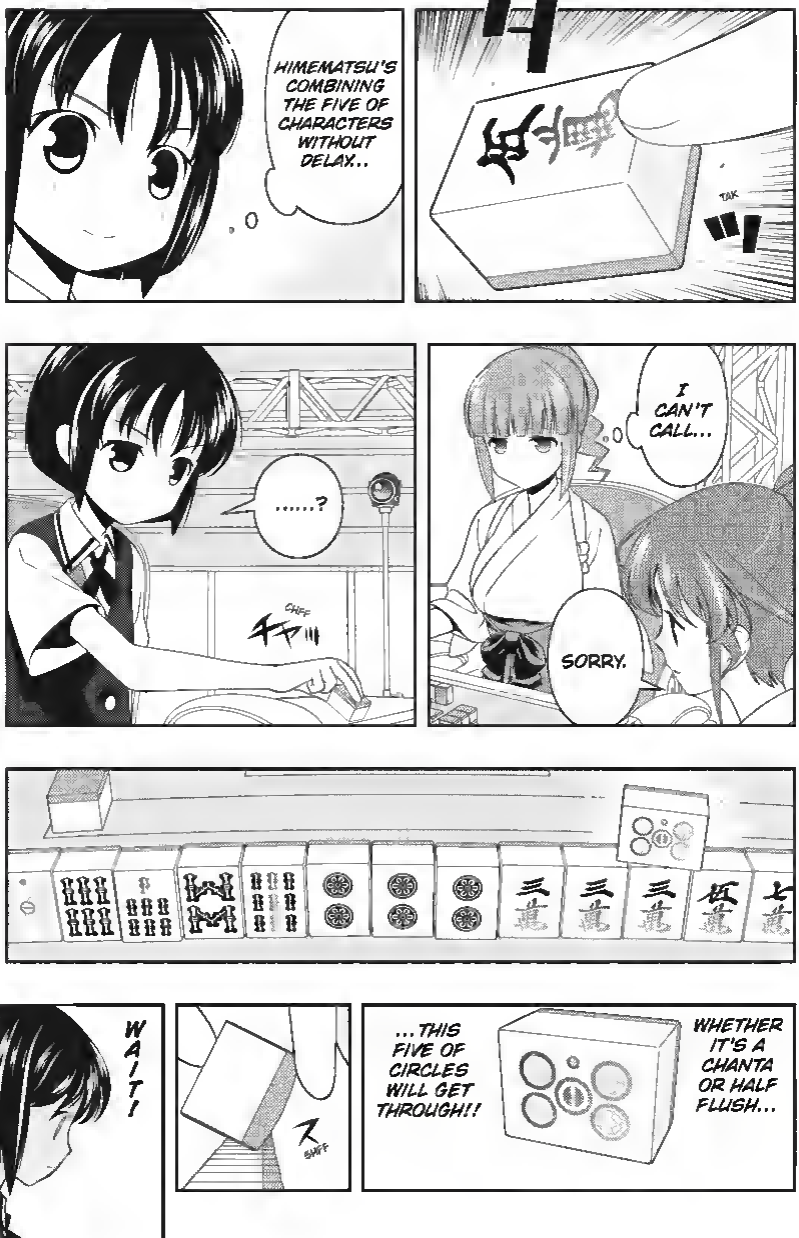


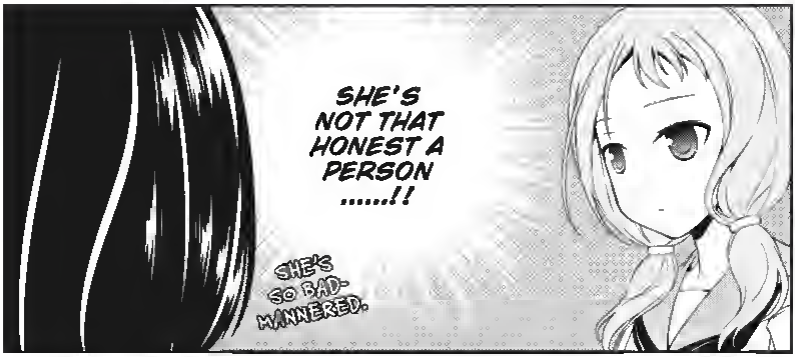
北
CLICK
FOUR DORA —!!
CLICK
SHE DISCARDED A TWO-TILE PATTERN WITH DORA, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS A TWO-SIDED WAIT*... IS SHE CHASING A HALF FLUSH OF CHARACTERS?
TAK
FWSH

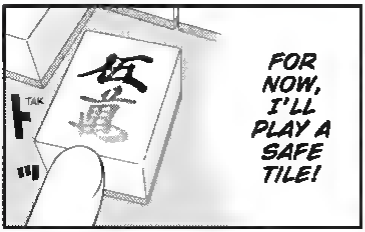
*TWO-TILE PATTERN WITH TWO-SIDED WAIT. TWO TILES THAT CAN WAIT FOR TWO NUMBERS LIKE 2-3, 3-4, 4-5, 5-6, 6-7, 7-8

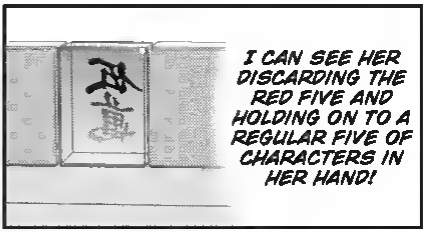

TAP
FINISH


SHE'S PROBABLY GOING AFTER A HALF FLUSH OF CHARACTERS... THAT OR A CHANTA— TERMINALS OR HONORS IN EACH SET!
IF SHE HAS A PURE STRAIGHT, SHE SHOULD'VE LEFT THE RED FIVE IN THE 4-5-6. THE VALUE HONORS ARE ON THE BOARD...THE ONE OF CIRCLES IS OUT, SO SHE CAN'T FORM A MIXED TRIPLE CHOW EITHER...
WE GET TO SEE A CHARACTER TILE AT LAST... AND IT'S THE RED FIVE THAT SHE JUST DREW...

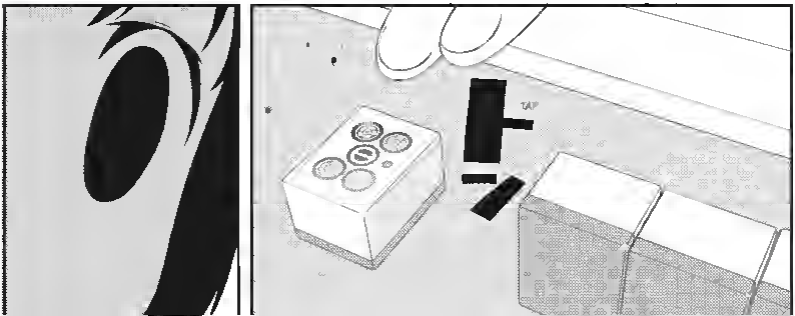

HIMEMATSU'S COMBINING THE FIVE OF CHARACTERS WITHOUT DELAY..
TAK
.....?
CHEF
I CAN'T CALL...
SORRY.
WAIT!
SHIFT
...THIS FIVE OF CIRCLES WILL GET THROUGH!!
WHETHER IT'S A CHANTA OR HALF FLUSH...


SHE'S NOT THAT HONEST A PERSON .....!!
SHE'S SO BAD-MANNERED.


TAK
FOR NOW, I'LL PLAY A SAFE TILE!


I CAN SEE HER DISCARDING THE RED FIVE AND HOLDING ON TO A REGULAR FIVE OF CHARACTERS IN HER HAND!

FWOO


TAP

TSUMO!
3,000/
6,000!
FLIP

IT REALLY WAS A PURE STRAIGHT ...
ROAR
I WONDER WHY SHE DIDN'T GO FOR A HALF FLUSH THEN.
THIRD-YEAR, MIYAMORI GIRLS' (IWATE) THIRD MATCH PLAYER
KURUMI KAKURA
90,000

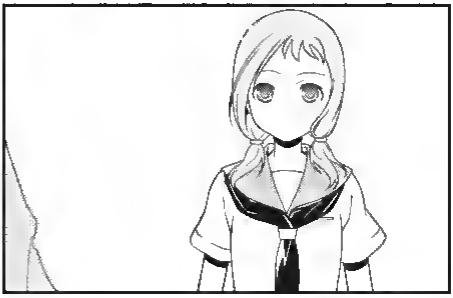
GOOD GAME.
FIRST-YEAR, EIBUI GIRLS' (KAGOSHIMA) THIRD MATCH PLAYER
HARU TAKIMI
84,800
WELL, THAT'S OVER WITH!
THIRD-YEAR, HIMEMATSU HIGH SCHOOL (SOUTH OSAKA) THIRD MATCH PLAYER
HIROE ATAGO
127,500
THANK YOU.
ROAR
THIRD-YEAR, KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL (NAGANO) THIRD MATCH PLAYER
HISA TAKEI
97,700
CHEER
The third match is over —!!
Thanks to the performance of the prestigious Himematsu's ace, Hiroe Atago, their team is the only one that has a net positive score!!

HAND 81:
ATTENTION

NEAR THE END, IT WENT MORE LIKE I THOUGHT IT WOULD...
FWOO...
YEAH...
GRIP
"I"
"I"
...BUT... THERE'S NO SENSE IN DWELLING ON IT NOW...
IF I'D BEEN ABLE TO CAPTURE THAT FEELING FROM THE START...
AT FIRST, I WAS HESITANT TO EVEN APPROACH IT...
THIS CHAIR —

HUNCH

YOU'RE NOT GOING BACK...?

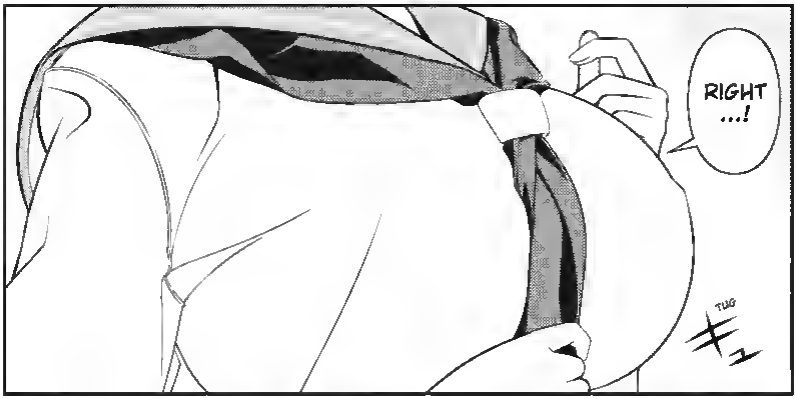


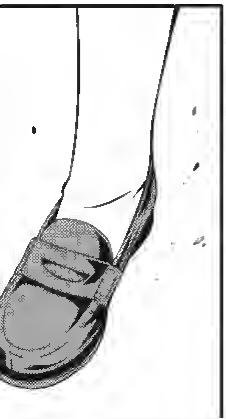
I FEEL LIKE SITTING HERE A LITTLE LONGER...
SQUEAK

I'M NOT YOUR KID OR GRANDKID...
...SO MIND YOUR OWN BEESWAX.

GROSS ...!!
HEH HEH HEH.
YOU'RE WEIRD.
HA HA!
.....
CAPTAIN... ISN'T BACK YET.....
THERE'S NO POINT IN WAITING FOR HER. I'M GOING...
RUSTLE
ガサ

KEEP STEADY.
GOOD LUCK!!
KICK THEIR ASSES!!

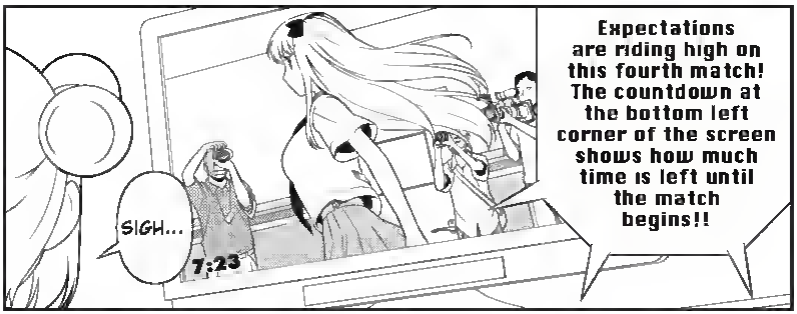

RIGHT ...!
TUG

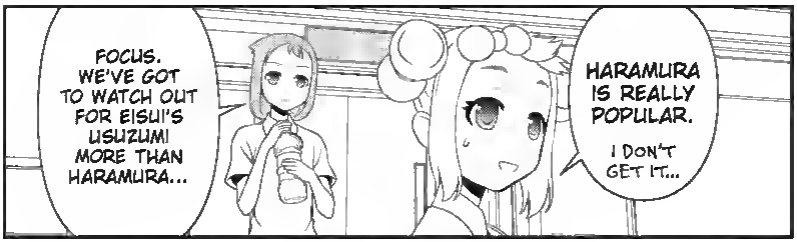


CHEER
IT'S NODOKA HARA-MURA!!
SHE'S HERE!

FLASH
FLASH
Has her strength risen to the high school level...? At last, she's appeared at the National High School Tournament!
Nodoka Hara-mura!!
The national middle school champion !!

BUT IDOL-LIKE MEMBERS ON TEAMS THAT GET ALL THE ATTENTION TEND TO LOSE, DON'T THEY? TAKE SAKINO FROM HIROSHIMA'S KAROTO HIGH SCHOOL...
DURING THE FIRST ROUND, I WAS ALL SET UP FOR HER, BUT THAT DIDN'T TURN OUT. I HOPE SHE WOWS US THIS TIME.
HER FIRST APPEAR-ANCE...


SIGH...
7:23
Expectations are riding high on this fourth match! The countdown at the bottom left corner of the screen shows how much time is left until the match begins!!


FOCUS. WE'VE GOT TO WATCH OUT FOR EISUI'S USUZUMI MORE THAN HARAMURA...
HARAMURA IS REALLY POPULAR.
I DON'T GET IT...

JINDAI'S PLAY VARIES, AS IF SHE'S EXPLORING SEVERAL DIFFERENT STYLES...
EISUI'S WINNING PATTERN IN THE PREFECTURAL QUALIFIER WAS JINDAI AND USUZUMI WOULD RACK UP POINTS, AND THEN IWATO WOULD SHUT OUT THE OTHER PLAYERS...

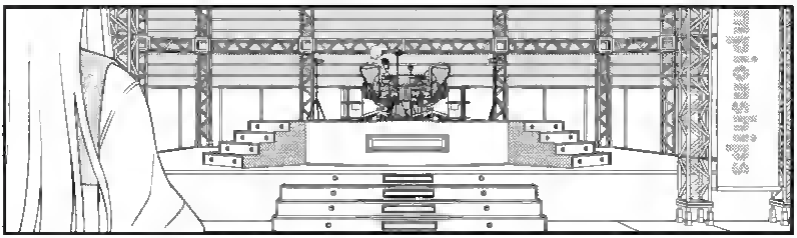
...BUT HATSUMI USUZUMI IS STRONG WHILE NEVER WAVERING!!

I HAVE FAITH THAT SHE'LL GET IT DONE.
KINUE-CHAN BETTER DO HER BEST.

THERE'S HARA-MURA-SAN!
SLURP
MMM...

AND WE'RE FORTUNATE THAT HATSUMI USUZUMI IS PLAYING IN THE FOURTH MATCH.
HUFF-HUFF
KOMAKI JINDAI USED A NINE GATES, BUT IT WAS A RELATIVELY WEAK ONE.
FWOO
WE GOT LUCKY THIS TIME.
FWOO

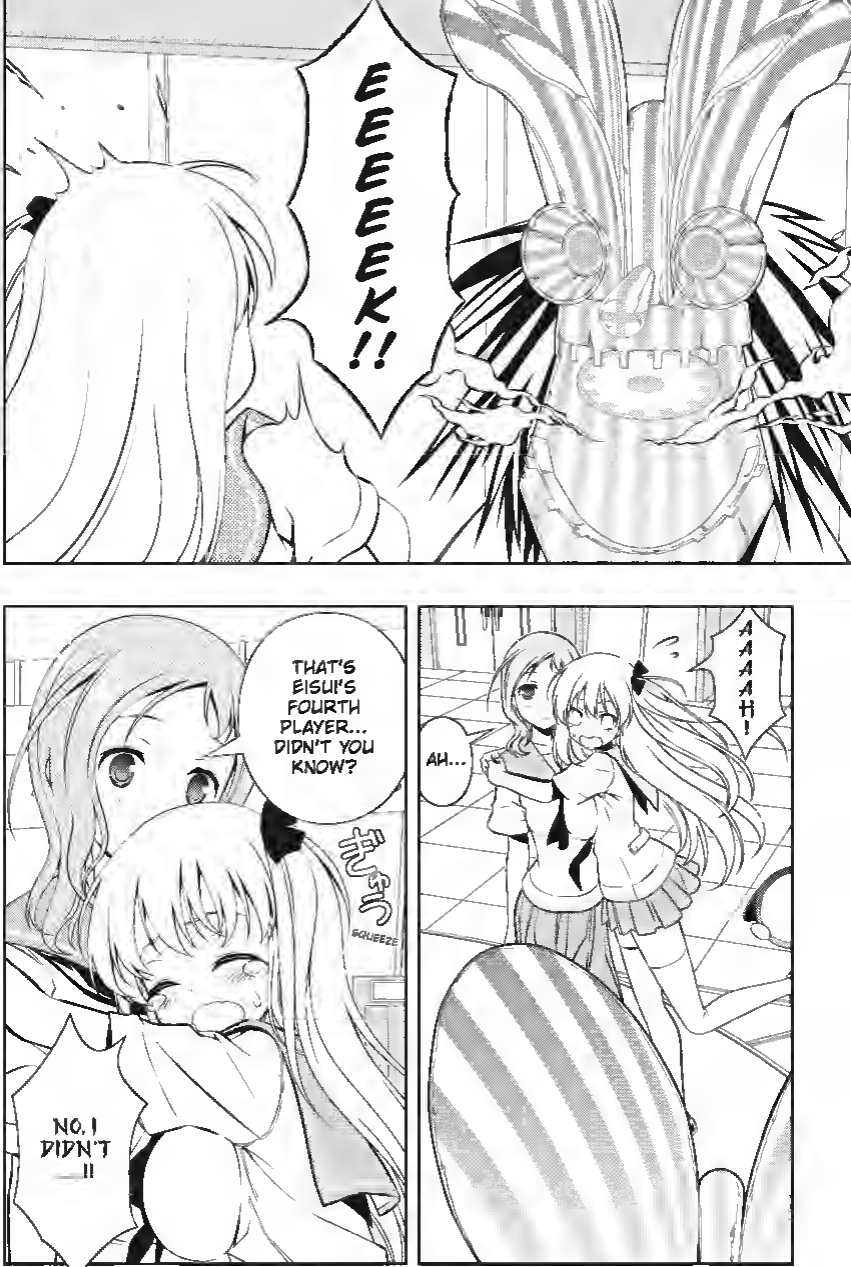
FLASH
THAT'S PERFECT FOR SAE.


supporters

GOOD GAME.
OH, SORRY.

CAPTAIN!

RIGHT.
IT'S UP TO YOU NOW.
トン
TAP
トン
TAP
TAK
!!
ゴオッ
ROAR


EEEEEEK!!
AAAAAH!
AH...
THAT'S EISUI'S FOURTH PLAYER... DIDN'T YOU KNOW?
ぎゅっ
SQUEEZE
NO, I DIDN'T !!

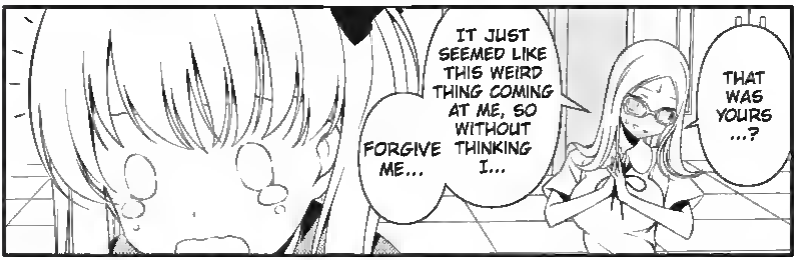
AH-HA-HA!
THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY, WHICH IS WHY THIS HAPPENS!
"NO MATTER WHO MY OPPONENT IS, I'LL DO MY BEST TO BEAT THEM!!"
GLITTER
"I'M NOT INTERESTED IN OTHER TEAMS.....
ROLL
ROLL
BOING
BOING
.....
?
AH...
HUH!?

ドカッ
KAPOW
!?

WHACK
AHHH...

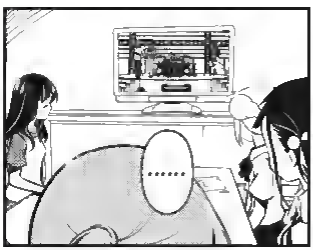
IT FELL...
YIKES...

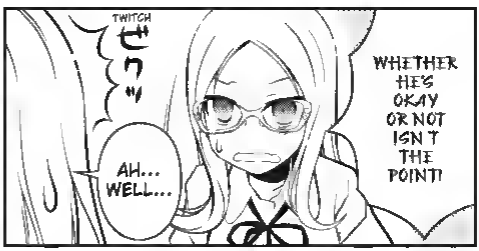
ROAR
ETOPEEN!!!
EH...?
RIDICULOUS...

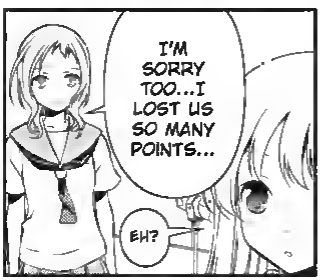

THAT WAS YOURS ...?
IT JUST SEEMED LIKE THIS WEIRD THING COMING AT ME, SO WITHOUT THINKING I...
FORGIVE ME...

HE'S OKAY .....!!
.....
I'M GLAD .....

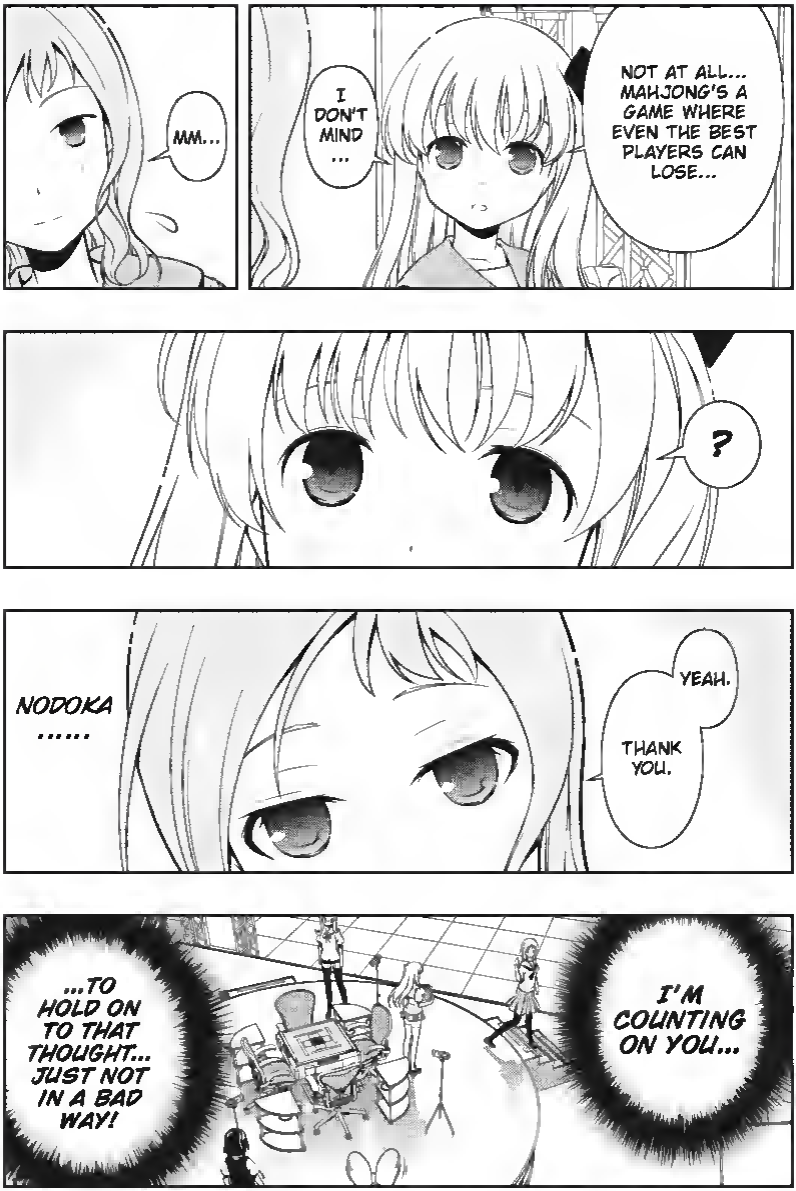
HAND 82: CHOICE







FOREHEAD: NOVICE


MM...
I DON'T MIND ...
NOT AT ALL... MAHJONG'S A GAME WHERE EVEN THE BEST PLAYERS CAN LOSE...
?
NODOKA .....
YEAH. THANK YOU.
...TO HOLD ON TO THAT THOUGHT... JUST NOT IN A BAD WAY!
I'M COUNTING ON YOU...

The fourth match will begin in a moment! From Eisui Girls', we have third-year Hatsumi Usuzumi!!
This outstanding powerhouse broke records in a major way at the Kagoshima prefectural qualifier!
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS!
ROAR
THIRD-YEAR, EISUI GIRLS' (KAGOSHIMA) FOURTH PLAYER
HATSUMI USUZUMI

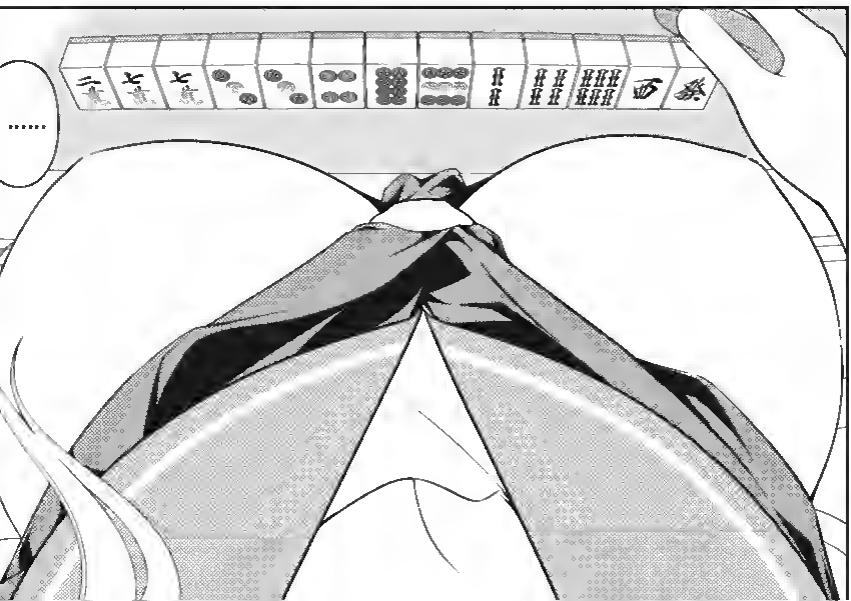
Hiroe Atago of Himematsu High has passed the baton to her younger sister, Kinue Atago!
LET'S HAVE A GOOD MATCH!
In the first round, Sae Usuzawa of Miyamori Girls' shut out Makabi High's Mekaru!
And from Kiyosumi High School—
THIRD-YEAR, MIYAMORI GIRLS' (IWATE) FOURTH PLAYER SAE USUZAWA
SECOND-YEAR, HIMEMATSU HIGH SCHOOL (SOUTH OSAKA) FOURTH PLAYER KINUE ATAGO

BOW
I LOOK FORWARD TO OUR MATCH...
Nodoka Hara-mura!
She was the champion of last year's National Individual Middle School Tournament!
GLEAM
How will she fight against these upperclassmen from these powerful schools .....!!?
FIRST-YEAR, KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL (NAGANO) FOURTH PLAYER
NODOKA HARAMURA

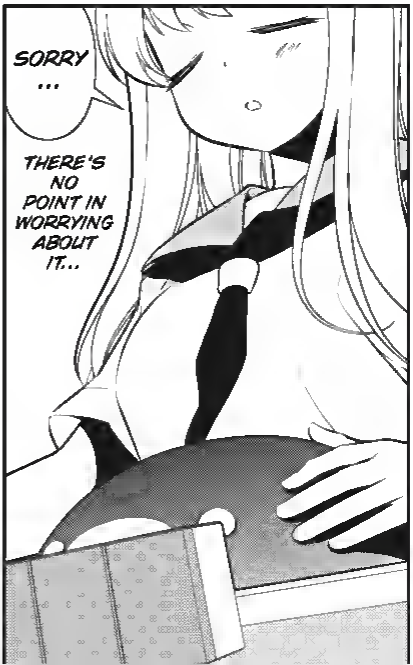
ROAR
And now, the climax of this showdown!
The first half of the fourth match everyone has their eyes on...
KACHUNK

...
begins
right
now!!
CHEER
CHATTER
CHATTER

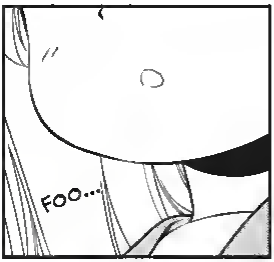
SOUTH PLAYER: NODOKA HARA-MURA
FWISH


.....

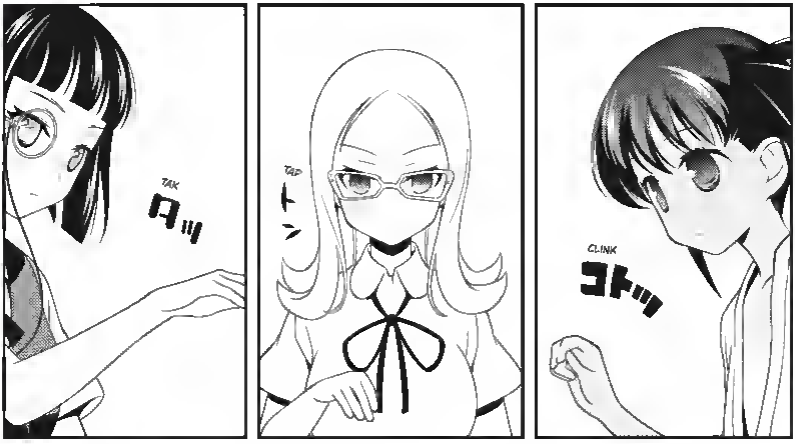
UNLIKE LAST YEAR, MY OPPONENTS ARE ALL UPPER-CLASSMEN ...
MY FIRST TIME ON THE NATIONAL STAGE AS A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT.....
TAP
トン
ROAR
CLINK
コト
FINISH
チャ
AND .....



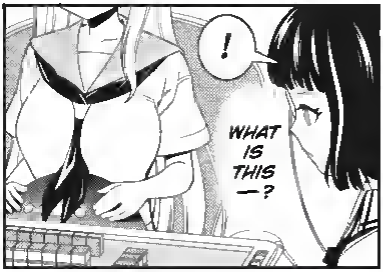
MY CHOICE RIGHT NOW...



ヒュン
WHOOM
...IS TO DO...
...WHAT I ALWAYS DO!!


TAK
ん!!
TAP
トン
CLINK
コトッ

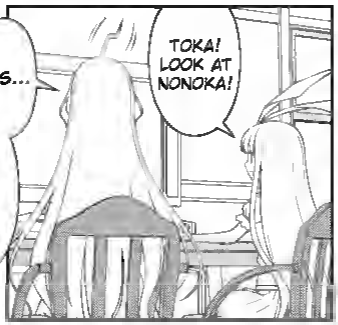
WHOOSH
CLICK

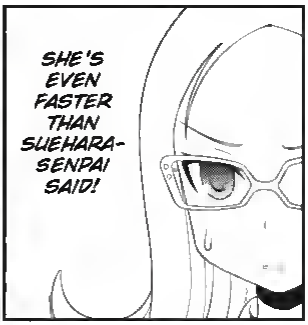

!
WHAT IS THIS —?

WINGS...?

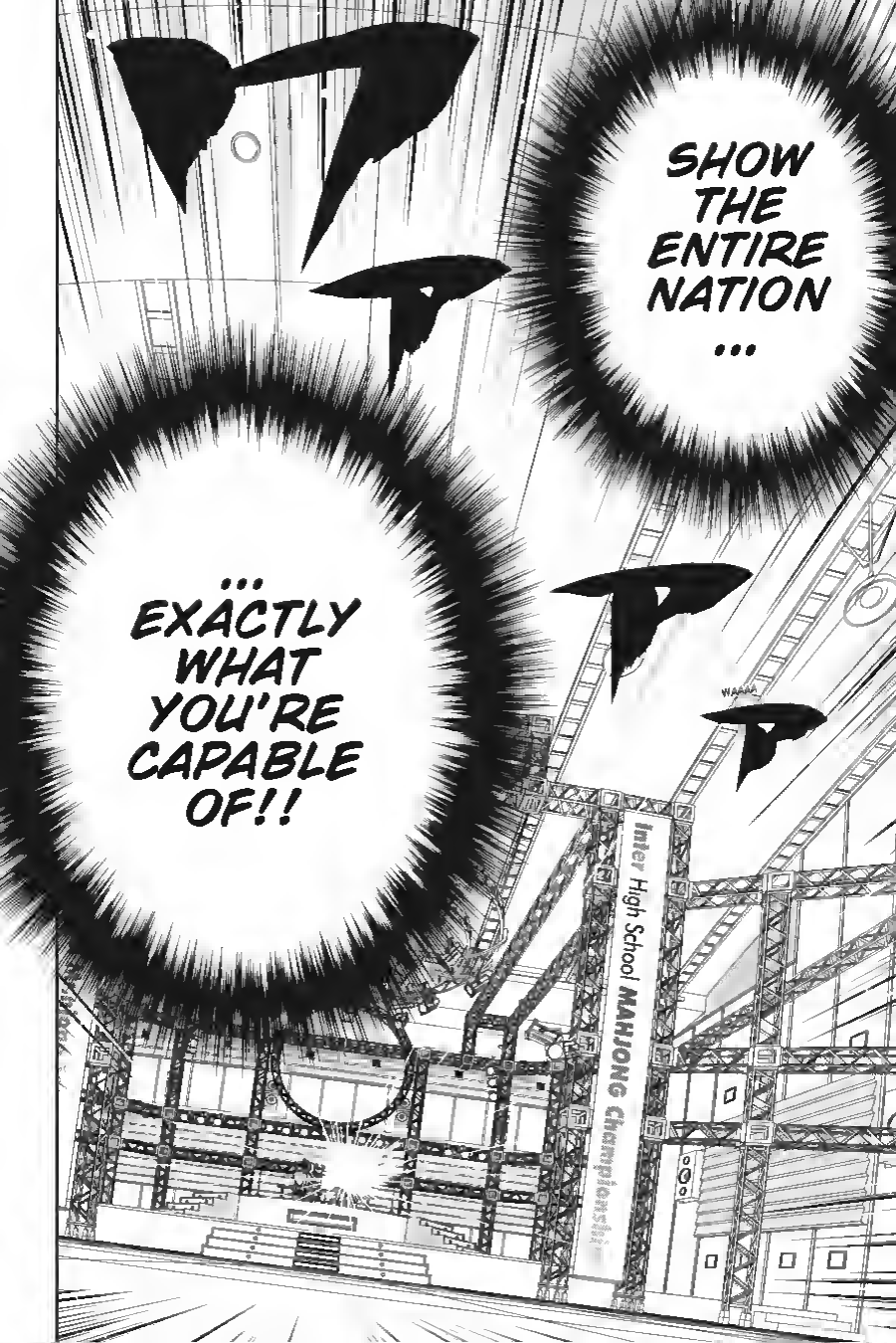
WHISTLE
ヘヘヘ!!

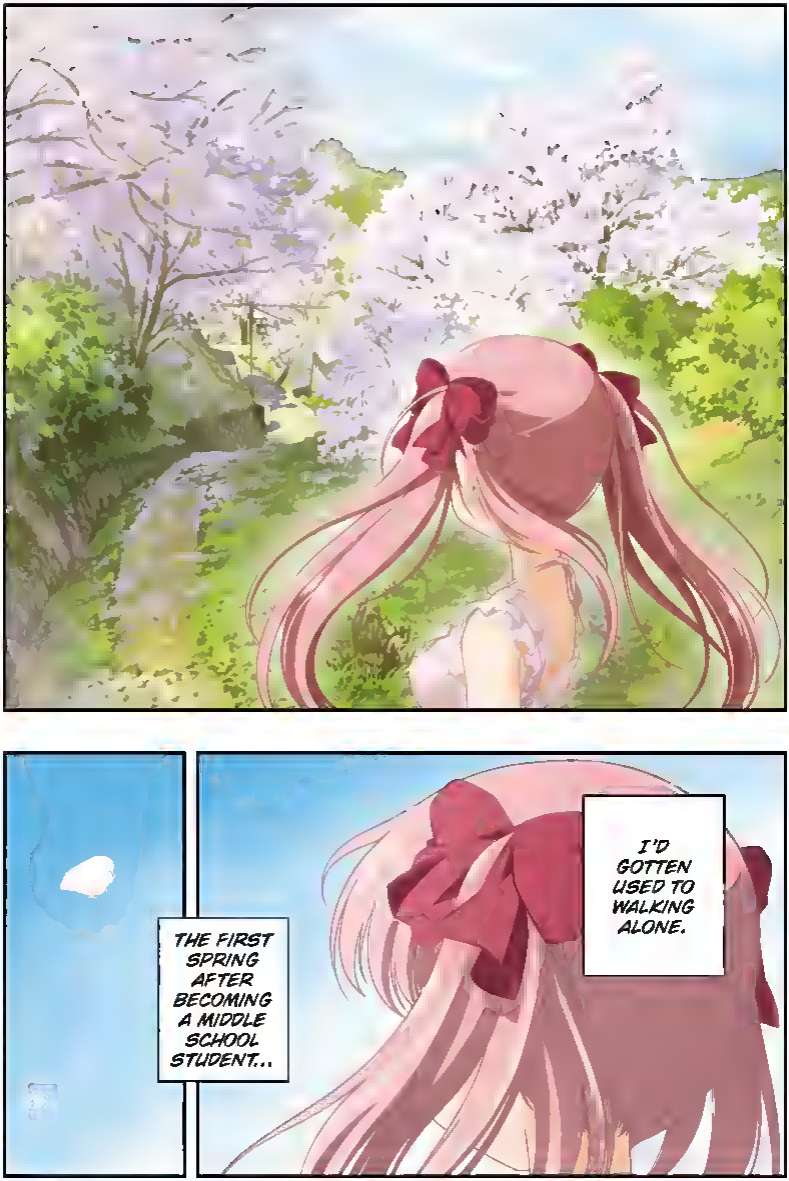
YES...
IT SEEMS SHE'S AWAKENED ALREADY!


TOKA! LOOK AT NONOKA!

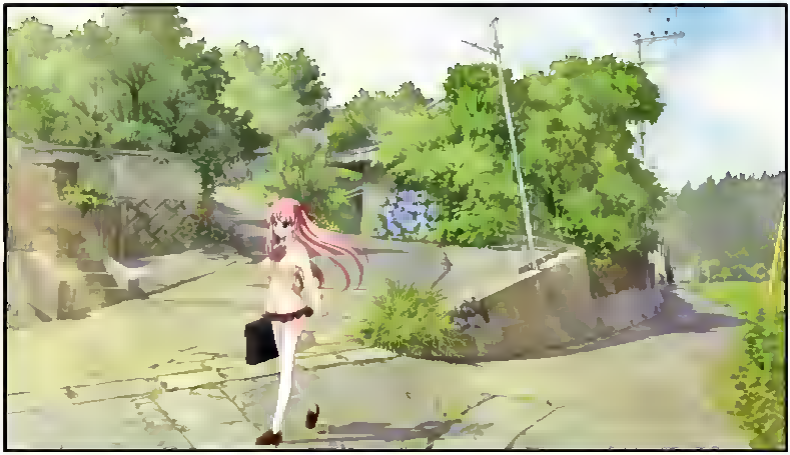

SHE'S EVEN FASTER THAN SUEHARA-SENPAI SAID!

ROAR
GOOD MORNING, NODOCCHI !!


SHOW THE ENTIRE NATION ...
... EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE CAPABLE OF!!
WAAAA
Inter High School MAHJONG Championship


THE FIRST SPRING AFTER BECOMING A MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT...
I'D GOTTEN USED TO WALKING ALONE.

SIDE STORY: TAKATOBARA



OH, NODO-CHAN. LONG TIME NO SEE. WHERE'S SHIZUNO-CHAN TODAY?
HELLO...

SINCE STARTING MIDDLE SCHOOL, SHIZUNO AND I HAVE GROWN APART...

WELL, YOU'RE AT THAT AGE...
YES...
カチ
CLICK
Chu♡!
BEEP
BEEP
PREP SCHOOL... SWITCH CLASSES... CHANGE SCHOOLS...
CLICK-CLICK
カチカチ
LITTLE BY LITTLE, EVERY-ONE GROWS APART...

...THEN FROM THE BEGINNING ...
IF I KNEW I'D END UP FEELING LIKE THIS...
ONE YEAR LATER— SPRING, SECOND YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL

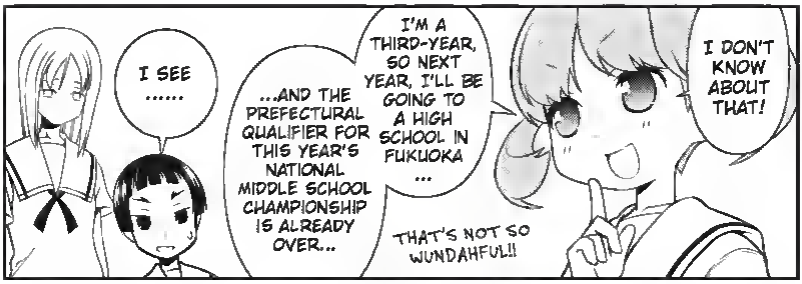
DASH
DASH
TAP
TAP
?
WHOA!
EEK!
FWISH
BOING

SORRY! THEY'RE SO MASSIVE, I COULDN'T DODGE OUT OF THE WAY... WAIT...
WOBBLE
EHHH ...!?
SHAKE
SHAKE

IS YOUR BRAIN OKAY !?
THAT'S MY LINE...
IS THIS LIKE WHEN A PUNCH THAT GRAZES YOUR CHIN SCRAMBLES YOUR BRAIN!?
ARE YOU OKAY.....?
TAP
TAP
I-I JUST LOST MY BALANCE .....
HEE!

WHAT?
...
I WAS JUST THINKING YOU REMIND ME OF TWO FRIENDS I HAD IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...
GRIN
THEN I CAN BE YOUR FRIEND TOO!
!
THAT'S NOT A BAD IDEA.....

MAHJONG CLUB
TWO MONTHS LATER—
HI!
WELCOME TO THE TAKATOBARA MIDDLE SCHOOL MAHJONG CLUB!
ALL RIGHT!
NOW WE CAN COMPETE AS A TEAM.
IT'S VERY NICE TO MEET YOU...
WEL-COME! YEAH!
IT'S WUNDAHFUL GETTING TWO NEW MEMBERS! SUPER-WUNDAHFUL!
NICE TO MEET YOU!


I SEE .....
...AND THE PREFECTURAL QUALIFIER FOR THIS YEAR'S NATIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP IS ALREADY OVER...
I'M A THIRD-YEAR, SO NEXT YEAR, I'LL BE GOING TO A HIGH SCHOOL IN FUKUOKA ...
THAT'S NOT SO WUNDAHFUL!!
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT!

HUH...?
I'M SORRY ...
...THAT NODO-CHAN WAS INTERESTED IN MAHJONG.
I GUESS WE SHOULD'VE FOUND OUT SOONER...

YOU'RE GETTING AHEAD OF YOURSELF...
I'LL BE PRAYING FOR YOUR SUCCESS FROM FARAWAY KYUSHU!
IF YOU GET EVEN ONE MORE CLUB MEMBER NEXT YEAR, YOU CAN ENTER THE MIDDLE SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP!
WELL, EITHER WAY, IT'S WUNDAHFUL!

OH!

MURO'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND, THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLER, WHO OFTEN COMES TO OUR SCHOOL'S GATE TO MEET HER AFTER SCHOOL—
WHAT ABOUT THAT ONE GIRL?

I—
I'M MAHO YUMENO...!
NICE TO MEET YOU!
SHIZUNO
...
AKO
.....

AGAIN, SOMEDAY—

SAKI 9: THE END

Saki 9

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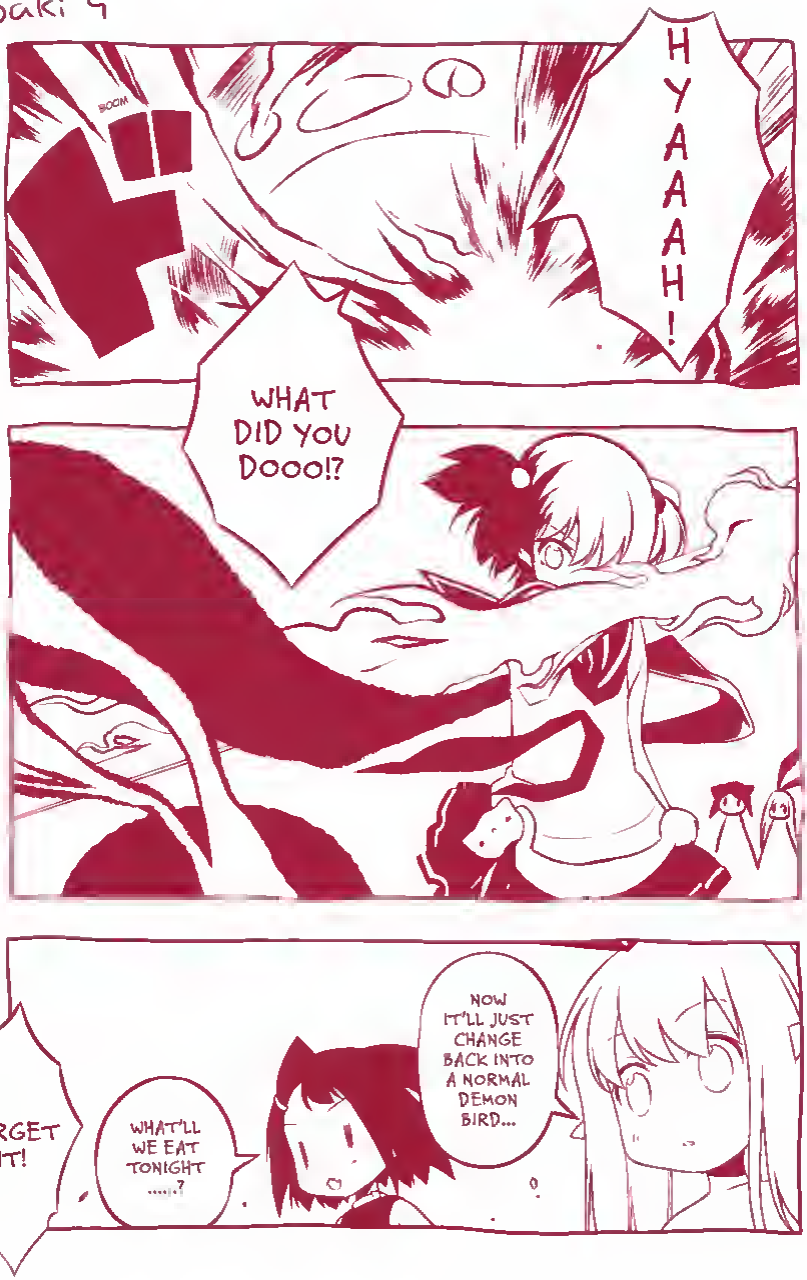
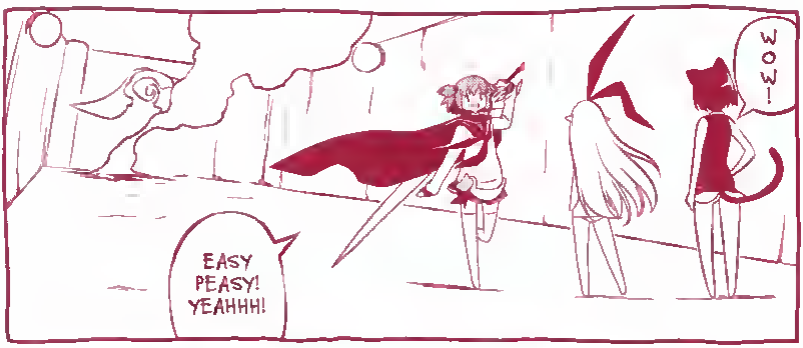
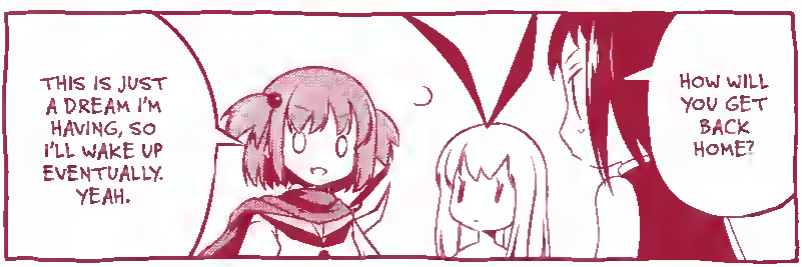

BOOM
HYAAAH!
WHAT DID YOU DOOO!?
NOW IT'LL JUST CHANGE BACK INTO A NORMAL DEMON BIRD...
WHAT'LL WE EAT TONIGHT.....?
FORGET IT!





TO BE CONTINUED

SQUARE ENIX.

SAKI 9

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